

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 FEBRUARY 1984

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi aircraft delivered "destructive blows" against a number of oil tankers anchored in the Khark Island zone on 27 February before returning safely to base, a spokesman for the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad radio. This "strong blow" begins the first day of a "siege" Iraq has decided to impose on this area, a region it earlier declared would be considered a zone of war operations, the spokesman added. All oil tankers and ships were again warned against approaching the Khark Island zone or any other Iranian port as Iraq will not bear responsibility for any losses sustained by those who ignore such warnings. Iraq will continue to strike at all Iranian targets until the "regime of evil and aggression" agrees to UN Security Council resolutions to stop the war, the spokesman stated.

A "well-informed" Iranian source at Khark Island cited by IRNA called the "alleged" Iraqi attacks against oil tankers docked at the island "imaginary" and having "no foundations." Such "lies" are aimed at covering up Baghdad's military defeats in the Khaybar operations, the source added. Loading continues "as usual" on the island, a "senior military spokesman" asserted to AFP on 28 February.

Meanwhile, Iranian forces "fully destroyed" two Iraqi brigades and partially destroyed a third in an "extensive lightning" attack on enemy positions south of Majnun and northeast of An-Nashwah, Iranian military communiques carried by Tehran radio on 27 February reported. More than 4,500 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded in these recent attacks, raising the enemy casualty toll since the start of the Khaybar operations to more than 11,500. Three Iraqi planes were also shot down in the Khaybar operational sector on 27 February, bringing the total number of Iraqi planes downed since the beginning of the Khaybar operations to six, one communique added.

The Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique, broadcast by Baghdad radio on 27 February, reported successes by the III and IV Army Corps in their respective operational sectors, including the killing of 2,059 Iranian troops and the destruction of seven Iranian helicopters. One Iranian plane was also shot down east of Basra on 26 February, the communique added. A "successful surprise" attack carried out by Iraqi forces against Iranian troops east of Basra achieved "positive results," INA reported.

Lebanon

Political Situation — A Lebanese envoy is expected to visit Damascus shortly to finalize the agenda for a Lebanese-Syrian summit meeting this weekend, Beirut radio announced on 28 February. Opposition sources cited by the radio said the Lebanese Cabinet must abrogate the 17 May Lebanese-Israeli agreement before the summit meeting, and AFP likewise

reported a statement by "authoritative sources" that President Amin al-Jumayyil will officially abrogate the agreement "within 48 hours." Citing "diplomatic sources," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon disclosed that Saudi Arabia arranged the forthcoming summit meeting, at which the Lebanese and Syrian presidents will establish "principles and details" for a political solution, including resolution of the 17 May agreement issue, and also arrange the phased withdrawal of Syrian forces on a separate basis from the Israeli presence or withdrawal.

In another development, the Syrian deputy foreign minister met with the northern opposition leaders Sulayman Franjiyah and Rashid Karami while another Syrian envoy delivered messages to Amal movement leader Nabih Birri and Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) officials in Beirut, according to Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios. The clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio said Birri and the PSP officials received a detailed message from PSP leader Walid Junblatt, who has held "intensive contacts and consultations" in Damascus since his return there from Amman.

Military Situation — The Lebanese Army deployed in positions vacated by the U.S. Marines at Beirut airport, according to Beirut radio. In southern Lebanon, two Israeli soldiers were wounded in an attack on an IDF position in Sidon, the Tel Aviv paper *HATZOFE* disclosed.

Palestinian-Jordanian Talks

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held a closed meeting with Jordan's King Husayn in An-Nadwah Palace and later headed the Palestinian side in talks with Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat and other Jordanian officials, according to PETRA-JNA and Amman television. The discussions were held in an atmosphere of "brotherhood and complete frankness," the television said, and focused on the principle of asserting independent Palestinian decisionmaking, on strengthening the PLO's legitimacy, and on defining a unified position. 'Arafat also met with various Palestinian delegations and personalities from Jordan, including PNC members, Amman radio reported.

Commenting on the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, Amman radio said they will center on creating the best formula for relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian people and on establishing a joint basis for any move in the Arab and international arenas. Meanwhile, Damascus radio continued Syria's criticism of the talks, linking them with Husayn's recent visit to Washington and with 'Arafat's alleged secret contacts with the U.S. administration prior to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. The radio said the talks will focus on reaching an agreement within the framework of the Reagan plan and claimed that Jordan will approve stationing 'Arafat's forces on its soil for use "as part of the Jordanian rapid intervention force."

Israel

Two hand grenades exploded in a Jerusalem clothing shop, injuring 21 people, Jerusalem radio reported on 28 February. The police have detained a number of people in connection with the incident, the Jerusalem police commander stated in remarks broadcast by the radio. AFP reported the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed credit for the attack in a communique issued in Damascus.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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Algiers VOP on Palestinian-Jordanian Relationship*LD280141 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT
27 Feb 84*

[Excerpts] Palestinian-Jordanian relations have fared badly because the bases on which these relations were built after 1948 were not the right ones. Historical experience proved that the old bases of this relationship — that is, the basis involving annexation, under the special circumstances which the Palestinian people were experiencing and given the lack of a real desire for this annexation — could not be explained as an act of union which took place within a logical sequence of historical events, rather it could be explained as an emergency which imposed itself in one way or another on the Palestinian people.

Any future relationship between the fraternal Palestinian and Jordanian peoples, that is, between Palestine and Jordan, no matter how developed, must basically rest on the genuine will of the Palestinian and Jordanian people. This will must be expressed freely and democratically, within the framework of two independent states enjoying full sovereignty.

The Palestinian people genuinely desire development of the relationship with the fraternal Jordanian people on the aforementioned bases. The Palestinian people will struggle to bring this about. The Palestinian people have the legitimate right to set up their own independent national state. The Palestinian and Jordanian peoples also have the right to choose the form of the relationship between them. Any form of relationship not in harmony with this way of thinking would inevitably lead to adverse consequences. It would mean a continuation of the sufferings of the fraternal Palestinian and Jordanian peoples and it would also mean continuing depriving the Palestinian people of their right to express their own national independent identity. The Palestinian people are ready to develop this relationship with the fraternal Jordanian people along this line. The form of the relationship currently proposed can be a basis if it takes into consideration the aspirations of the Palestinian people and their national legitimate rights — namely, to establish an independent, fully sovereign Palestinian state. These aspirations are most certainly in harmony with the aspirations of the fraternal Jordanian people who are struggling together with the other Arab nations to realize them.

Baghdad PLO Radio on Palestinian-Jordanian Dialogue*JN251952 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT
25 Feb 84*

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] In the coming days the Jordanian capital will witness the resumption of the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue on a summit level between brother leader Abu 'Ammar and the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn. The dialogue on this level was suspended last May for known reasons, for undeclared reasons, and for other reasons having to do with this and that. However, on other levels the dialogue has never been suspended from last May to this day. Many Palestinian officials arrived in Amman and were received by King Husayn, and many Jordanian officials were received by Brother Abu 'Ammar in Tunis and elsewhere. These meetings

were in addition to many other meetings on various levels. We are repeating ourselves when we say that the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue goes far beyond any political dialogue between two sides that have joint interests or between two neighboring states, even if these two states have joint understanding. The Palestinian-Jordanian relations are relations of kinship more than relations of geography and politics. The Jordanian and Palestinian peoples had a joint history before they were united, as a result of the Arab-Zionist conflict, by struggling in one trench to confront the common danger. Nevertheless, this repetition about the deep foundation of relations between the two sides will not prevent us from asking about the temporary suspension of the dialogue on a summit level, about its resumption now, and about its objectives.

The answer to this action does not lie in the intentions of the Palestinian and Jordanian sides as much as it lies in the circumstances surrounding the dialogue and the parties to the dialogue. The first round of talks in 1982 was governed by manifestations that gave the impression the dialogue was revolving in a limited sphere in order to reach an agreement on a specific objective and action. Until then, it was not yet clear that the United States was not serious about making the so-called Reagan plan an acceptable solution in the Middle East. In fact, it has not yet been shown that Washington is not trying to bring life to its president's initiative. Despite the fact that the PLO has announced its clear stand toward that U.S. initiative through the February 1982 PNC meetings, it did not want to close the door on possible action. On the other hand, it could not rid the first round of the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue of the atmosphere created by Washington's insinuations. When the dialogue reached the borders of its limited sphere, it was necessary for the parties to the dialogue to retreat one or two steps and temporarily suspend the dialogue so that they could resume it later in a new sphere and a new spirit.

With the collapse of all the U.S. claims regarding the Zionist forces in Lebanon and the settlements in the occupied territory — after King Husayn has tested these claims — and after it has become clear that Washington is impotent to act unilaterally to reach solutions to complicated problems such as those prevailing in the Middle East, the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue — which must be held in a sound way — has completely disposed of the narrow limits that governed it in the past. Consequently, this dialogue will be resumed on a broader and stronger platform. This dialogue is based on the deep foundations of the two peoples' lives and, on wider lines, on the Arab and international levels. Moreover, this dialogue is aimed at achieving a joint action which manifests the unity of the two parties' strength, and not their differences within the framework of a narrow course of any limited plan.

AL-ANBA' Views Palestinian-Syrian Talks*GF241932 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 23 Feb 84
pp 1, 22*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] In a statement to *AL-ANBA'*, responsible Palestinian sources revealed that no positive results have been reached with

regard to improving Syrian-Palestinian relations. The sources affirmed that the efforts exerted in this respect are still deadlocked since the Syrian Government still insists on dislodging 'Arafat from the PLO leadership as a condition to resume positive, constructive dialogue.

The sources said that in spite of the failure of efforts exerted and the recent discussion which lasted almost 3 hours between the PLO representative and Syrian officials, the talks were suspended. They are to resume later after the return of the Syrian foreign minister from his visit to Moscow, which will take place in a few days, following the visit of a high level Soviet delegation to Syria.

The Syrian official asked for a restatement of PLO initiatives, provided there would be a working paper to be discussed before the resumption of the dialogue. The source said that the Syrian Government considers the events in Lebanon far more important than the Palestinian-Syrian problem, at least for the time being.

The sources affirmed to *AL-ANBA* that any Jordanian-Palestinian political federation — even if were based on the Fes resolutions — would be deadlocked without Syria. The sources affirmed that the political settlement should be a Palestinian-Syrian-Jordanian one in order to be successful, stressing that Syria is one of the confrontation countries.

A senior Palestinian source affirmed to *AL-ANBA* that those who are fighting in West Beirut are only Lebanese, and that there are no Palestinians with them. The source said that Israel is seeking a pretext to invade Beirut again, but the PLO realized this and thus did not deploy any Palestinian fighters from those who left Beirut following the invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

UAE Daily Interviews PFLP Official Spokesman *GF250951 Doha QNA in Arabic 0845 GMT 25 Feb 84*

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 25 Feb (QNA) — PFLP political office spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif has reaffirmed that the Palestinian revolution will continue its struggle on all fronts and that it will escalate its operations, especially against the Israeli occupation forces wherever they are. In a statement published in the UAE newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* today, Mr Abu Sharif said: We are coordinating with the Lebanese nationalists in order to strike against the Israeli occupation forces in southern Lebanon. The Palestinian official called on all Palestinians to unite on the basis of the PLO program and to put their entire weight in the battle against Zionism because this is the only way to regain the Palestinian rights. He added that the United States makes a mistake by thinking that it still has a monopoly of the cards of the game in the Middle East. He pointed out that the recent change in the balance of power in Lebanon was nothing but a result of the change in the balance of power in the region.

DFLP Claims Responsibility for Jerusalem Blast *NC281141 Paris AFP in English 1139 GMT 28 Feb 84*

[Text] Damascus, Feb 28 (AFP) — The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] today claimed responsibility for what it called a "grenade attack" in the western sector of Jerusalem on "Jewish colonisers". In a communique issued here, the front, led by Nayif Hawatimah, said that the "Sami abu Ghawsh" commando had carried out the attack inflicting "heavy losses on the enemy." (Earlier today police in Jerusalem said that two booby-trapped packages had exploded in the city wounding 18 people).

Resistance Operations in Lebanon, West Bank Reported

Hasbayya Attack

JN272113 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men are further escalating their military operations against Zionist forces in southern Lebanon. The resistance men attacked a Zionist military patrol near Hasbayya in southeastern Lebanon last night. They used machine guns and hand grenades in the attack. The attack killed or wounded all of the patrol members. A Zionist spokesman admitted the attack, but claimed that none of the Zionist soldiers was hurt. He said that the Israeli forces encircled the area and waged a large-scale mopping up campaign to search for the attackers, who retreated safely to base. The resistance men used rockets to shell a Zionist position north of Tyre in southern Lebanon. The enemy radio did not disclose the casualties that resulted from this shelling; it said that the occupation forces combed the area and found a katyusha rocket launcher.

Hebron Attack

JN272115 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Our hero revolutionaries' operations inside the occupied homeland are escalating against the enemy soldiers and installations. The enemy radio admitted that one of its soldiers was seriously wounded when our revolutionaries attacked him with knives near Hebron. The enemy radio was cited as saying that Israeli forces rushed to the scene and immediately besieged the area. They waged a mopping up and arrest campaign in search of the attackers. Our revolutionaries also used Molotov cocktails to attack a police station guarding IDF heavy equipment near Bethlehem in the West Bank. The enemy radio admitted the operation, but, as usual, claimed that there were no casualties among its soldiers.

KUWAIT

Official Views Vital Role of Arab Media

GF271210 Kuwait *ARAB TIMES* in English 26 Feb 84
p 4

[Text] Riyadh, Feb 25 (KUNA) — Kuwait's Information Ministry undersecretary, Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Jabir, today underscored the important role of the Arab mass media in a comprehensive pan-Arab development plan.

Shaykh Nasir, who is also head of the coordination and planning committee for petroleum information in Arab Gulf countries, added that development is the goal of mediamen. Development is simultaneously sought by economists, politicians and specialists in social and human sciences, Shaykh Nasir said at the opening session of a three-day seminar on "information in service of development in the Arab nation." Delegates should look for ways the Arab mass media can best live up to its commitment to a comprehensive development so that "our Arab world would progress and develop towards a better future," Shaykh Nasir said.

"Information has a basic role in our lives, and we should be aware of the positive and negative aspects of that role," he added. Information, particularly in developing nations, was an indispensable national resource, and information and energy serve as basic factors in the development process with all its social, economic, cultural and political aspects, he said.

"Information's moral dimension urges man to acquire education, knowledge and culture, enjoy freedom and preserve his independence and dignity," Shaykh Nasir said.

Ministry Warns of Increasing Drug Problem

GF271158 Kuwait *ARAB TIMES* in English 26 Feb 84
p 6

[Text] Drug trafficking in neighbouring countries poses a great danger to Gulf states, according to Kuwait's Interior Ministry. And the instability of Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Lebanon, which formed the "golden rectangle" for drugs, aggravated the problem, a ministry report claimed.

The report on the security dimensions of the drug problem said that the Gulf was surrounded by drug rings seeking to make a profit out of trafficking. The director of the research and studies department at the ministry, Lt. Col. 'Abd al-Majid al-Khuraybit, said that the Gulf states were at the center of international trade routes, which made them a target for the drug trade. The Arab anti-narcotics office in Jordan and those of local authorities could not prevent the problem from spreading, he added.

Last year, Kuwait's security forces had arrested 278 people for trading in drugs. They belonged to 24 nationalities, including 11 non-Arab. He added that 46 kgs of hashish, 9 kgs of opium, 765 grams of marijuana, 61 grams of cocaine, and about 1,000 dolexine tablets had been seized, and 771 people, including 44 women, had been convicted for narcotics offences.

Lt. Col. al-Khuraybit said that authorities in Morocco confiscated 266 tons of locally produced hashish in 1975 and 429 tons in 1976, and similar amounts were confiscated in Egypt. He said that the danger to the Gulf states could be judged from the fact that the "golden rectangle" countries had increased cultivation of drugs. The cultivation of a narcotic called kat was spreading in Yemen and Somalia, and the use of hashish and opium was spreading in Sudan and Egypt. He also claimed that Israel had imported 85 tons of poppy seeds from Turkey to cultivate export opium to Arab countries.

Iran Urged To End Gulf War With Iraq**AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM Editorial**

GF261442 Manama *WAKH* in Arabic 0955 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 26 Feb (WAKH) — In its editorial today, the Kuwaiti paper *AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM* urged Iran to realize that its war with Iraq poses a threat to the entire region. The paper said that it appears that Iran "is determined to turn the region into an arena of international conflict by gradually encouraging the superpowers to intervene and by deluding itself that it can fight the entire world".

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM adds: "It is strange that Tehran should be deluding itself in the belief that it can subjugate Iraq and turn it into a subservient republic. However, Iraq is too indomitable for it to subjugate." The paper adds: "We have repeatedly said that Iran would be much more sensible if it realizes that it has no interest in increasing its hostility toward the Arabs and thus drown itself now and in the future in an endless hell that will definitely harm it, harm the Arabs, and harm Islam."

In conclusion, *AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM* expressed the hope that "the events of the latest battles will make the rulers of Tehran realize that the defeat of Iraq is not within reach, and that to continue the war is to act like Nero when he burned Rome."

'Unjustifiable' Stance Criticized

LD272022 Kuwait *KUNA* in English 1903 GMT 27 Feb 84

[By KUNA political commentator]

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 27 (KUNA) — The latest flareup in the Iran-Iraq war has once again focused international attention on the incredible destructiveness of the three-and-a-half year old conflict which the world community has tended to ignore despite its potentially global ramifications.

With thousands of soldiers and civilians dying on both sides, and absolute chaos wreaked on the economies and development plans of both countries, now is not the time to delve into the multitude of differences which brought Iran and Iraq into such a destructive war — this would only reopen the very wounds which international mediation has sought to heal.

After repeated Iranian attacks against Iraqi soil, Arab leaders assembled at Fes in September 1982, expressed anguish at the developing situation, pointing out that the continuation of the

war only served outside interests, and expressing solidarity with any Arab state that comes under attack. The leaders at the summit underlined their commitment to the Arab League covenant and joint defense pact, and stressed that aggression against any Arab country would be regarded as an attack on all of them.

Eighteen months after the unequivocal *Fas* stance was taken, Iran remains unmoved, and instead pursues its unacceptable, and indeed incomprehensible attempts to smash into Iraqi territory while casting aside all genuine attempts for a negotiated peace. It is saddening to see television pictures of young Iranian boys alongside old men being driven to their deaths in the name of a cause worthy of sacrifice, and in a war in which it becomes increasingly evident that both sides are the losers. It is now clear that [words indistinct] of militarily defeating Iraq, and that Iraq does not aim to pursue an armed showdown in the war — two facts which make Iran's current stance doubly unjustifiable.

But this does not in any way diminish the dangerous consequences of the continuation of the war — in which only colonialist, Zionist and imperialist powers have an interest — any more than the warped logic that the invasion of Iraq is part of a drive to liberate Jerusalem can cover up the stark reality that the conflict only diverts Iraq's much-needed participation in support of Arab and Islamic causes, including Palestine.

This irony is made even more bitter when it is recalled that Arab states have always supported, and would continue to do so, any foreign aggression against Iran — as indicated by the wholehearted (?backing) given to the Arab world to Iran's nationalization of its oil in the 1950's.

Those who would try to destroy Iraq should realize that this places them firmly in the camp of the enemies of the Arab front-line states. These, in turn, need to understand that their reluctance to stand by Iraq in deciding — militarily or peacefully — the outcome of the war which has been imposed on it, is no longer acceptable.

PDRY

Diplomatic Relations Established With Norway

GF271348 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT
27 Feb 84

[Text of statement issued by the Foreign Ministry]

[Text] The PDRY Government and the Kingdom of Norway have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of today, 27 February.

Foreign Minister Meets With Iranian Ambassador

GF261444 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT
26 Feb 84

[Text] Brother Hasan Aminian, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, yesterday met in Aden with 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, PDRY minister of foreign affairs, and handed him a message from Brother Velayati, minister of foreign affairs in the

Islamic Republic of Iran, on the war the regime ruling in Iraq has imposed on the Islamic revolution.

During the meeting, the two sides also discussed strengthening relations between the two countries.

SAUDI ARABIA

Turkey's Evren Holds News Conference in Riyadh

TA241202 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT
24 Feb 84

[Text] President Kenan Evren has said that moderate countries such as Turkey and Saudi Arabia which desire peace and security should make their weight felt, particularly when international problems are increasing. President Evren, who is in Saudi Arabia on an official visit, held a news conference in the Saudi capital of Riyadh this morning.

Guntac Aktan, Nejat Ozkam, and Muhsin Cifteler from the Turkish radio and television news center report that at the news conference Evren recalled that his visit to Saudi Arabia coincides with a period of increased international and regional problems. Evren said: Currently we are faced with a dangerous situation created by the escalation of the East-West conflict, as well as of various regional conflicts. It is more important than ever for moderate countries such as Turkey and Saudi Arabia — whose attitudes are based on a desire for peace and security — to make their weight felt during this period.

No doubt, the solution of all political problems in the world and the establishment of global peace is the ideal situation for humanity. However, we should accept the fact that this cannot be achieved overnight. Therefore, I believe that it is beneficial to set ourselves more realistic targets in our efforts for peace. Evren added that one should not labor under the illusion that East-West tension or bilateral or regional conflicts can be eliminated from one moment to the next. Evren noted that, despite this fact, if efforts are made to achieve the attainable, then dangers threatening humanity can be reduced to a minimum level, even if they cannot be eradicated.

Noting that reducing the tension between East and West is necessary for world peace, Evren referred to the benefits of establishing a constructive dialogue — instead of threats and polemics — to reduce to the minimum the possibilities of a clash. Noting that keeping open the paths to conciliation and seeking possibilities for an agreement in regional conflicts would constitute a more positive attitude, Evren added that discrediting such an attitude in practice will lead to dangerous results. Evren continued: Realistically assessing world events and not ignoring them — while fulfilling our obligations to serve peace — is very important from the viewpoint of our security. We determine our behavior accordingly; thus, we believe that we contribute, on the one hand, to world peace, and on the other to our own security as well as the security of our region. No doubt, continuing these efforts in unity and solidarity will facilitate the achievement of our goals.

Evren said that the most effective measure against the dangers

that threaten stability and security in the region and that prevent the peaceful development of nations is to act in unity and become stronger. Noting that unity and solidarity among the Arab and Islamic countries will better secure peace and stability in the region, Evren said: It is regrettable from our viewpoint that the Arab and Islamic unity and solidarity, which we so desire and hope for, has not been secured at the desired level.

Noting that Saudi King Fahd is making intensive efforts to solve regional problems, Evren added that the talks in Riyadh have been beneficial from the viewpoint of assessing regional problems. Evren said that Turkey attaches great importance to its relations with the Islamic world, its Arab brothers, and the Middle East countries and that, within this framework, it welcomes the peaceful, stable, and constructive Saudi policy.

Noting that Turkey and Saudi Arabia have similar views on and approaches to regional problems, Evren added that this similarity has manifested itself through the cooperation and support maintained at the bilateral level, as well as at international forums. Noting that Turkey is closely interested in friendly and brotherly Arab countries, Evren said that Turkey is making special efforts, on the one hand, to further develop its existing relations and cooperation with the regional countries in all fields, and on the other, to strongly support the just Arab cause both within the framework of its relations with the West and in international establishments.

Noting that Israel is the biggest source of instability in the Middle East and the party most responsible for that instability, Evren said that the problem can only be solved through an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and through the recognition of all the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish a state.

Recalling Turkey's unremitting stand on Israel's unilateral faits accomplis in the region, Evren said that the differences of views among Arab countries is strengthening circles which benefit from chaos, and that as a result, the joint cause is adversely affected. Evren said that all foreign troops should immediately withdraw from Lebanon for the amelioration of the worrisome situation in that country. Noting that important duties and responsibilities befall the various groups in Lebanon to prevent a disaster, Evren added that it is necessary for these forces to unite around joint interests and to keep the state alive. Evren said that Turkey is following with appreciation and supports the active and constructive role Saudi Arabia is playing in the solution of regional problems.

Explaining at his news conference that the continuing fraternal strife between Iran and Iraq is obstructing the establishment of unity among the Islamic world and is being followed with grief, President Evren said that Turkey will continue its initiatives and efforts alone, or within the Islamic Peace Committee in a bid to end this war. Evren also noted that the work within the framework of the Islamic Conference Organization should be concentrated on the prosperity and development of the Islamic community, rather than on sterile arguments among members.

Acting from this premise, Evren recalled, Turkey supports Egypt's return to the organization in a bid to strengthen Islamic

solidarity and maintain the spirit of unity. Evren said: Differences of opinion among Arab countries will only benefit the forces against us. It is certain that as long as we are together, we will have increased strength to struggle for our common causes. The increasingly deteriorating conditions necessitate our unity and not our separation. This is the lesson we have learned from history.

Evren recalled that from the beginning, Turkey condemned the intervention in Afghanistan, adding that Turkey will continue to support efforts for a political solution that will grant the Afghan people the right to self-determination.

Referring to the Cyprus issue, Evren said: After having waged a long struggle for their identity and to preserve their integrity, after having patiently tried to reinstate a federal republic with the Greek Cypriots in the face of the Greek Cypriot reluctance to reach an agreement, and continuous exploitation of the problem to the detriment of the Turkish Cypriot community in international forums, the Islamic Turkish Cypriot community — which is the founding partner of the Cyprus Republic — established its own state in north Cyprus. Although they established their own state, our Cypriot kinsmen left the door open for unity with the Greek Cypriots under a federal system. Through this, the Turkish Cypriots clearly proved that their real goal is to reach an agreement through equal negotiations.

Turkish Cypriots do not want separation. They wish to sit at the negotiating table with equal rights. The negotiations must be held under equal conditions and the foundation of a federal state with equal rights must be laid. This approach is not new, it is merely the reflection of the actual situation.

President Evren stated that the declaration of independence by the Turkish Cypriot community was not a unilateral decision, but aimed to inform the world of a community's appeal for partnership status. Evren said that the current Cyprus situation based on the existence of two independent states can only change with the establishment of a bi-zonal and bi-communal federal state based on equal partnership.

Pointing out that another development that violates the atmosphere of peace and security in the world is international terrorism, the Turkish president noted that this adversely affects relations between countries. Evren explained that Turkey suffered the consequences of this despicable development and added: During the past 3 years, terrorism has been crushed within Turkey. However, we are still struggling against Armenian terrorism, which is directed against our diplomats and which is a part of international terrorism. We observe with satisfaction that our struggle is being increasingly supported by other countries affected by terrorism. We hope that countries will attach importance to bilateral and multilateral cooperation in combating terrorism.

Noting that in his talks with Saudi King Fahd in Riyadh he discussed commercial and economic relations, President Evren expressed the determination to further strengthen and diversify the developing cooperation in these fields. Evren pointed out that Turkey's agricultural and industrial production is extremely suitable to the needs of the Saudi market, adding that Turkish-

Saudi trade relations should be increased to at least several times the current level. Explaining that during the talks King Fahd and he had noted possibilities for fruitful cooperation in many fields, Evren said: The excellence of our relations with Saudi Arabia has been proven again through this visit. I believe that Turkish-Saudi friendship benefits the interests of the entire region, as well as those of two friendly and brotherly countries. Actually, Turkish policy concerning its own region consists of establishing similar relations with all Islamic and Arab countries, as well as contributing to and supporting the efforts exerted in a bid to find just and lasting solutions to the grave problems that threaten peace and stability in the region.

After his news conference, President Evren received Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-Faysal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Saud and conferred with him for some time.

Later, Evren held a meeting with King Fahd at Riyadh airport. Evren then left for Jidda aboard a private plane. He was seen off at Riyadh by the Saudi king with a ceremony. In the afternoon, he will leave Jidda for Mecca and visit the Kaaba there. Tomorrow morning, he will tour the school of the Prophet Mohammad in Medina and return to Turkey in the afternoon.

Spain's Prime Minister Gonzalez, Delegation Visit

Arrival in Riyadh

LD271653 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Riyadh 27 Feb (SPA) — Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and his accompanying delegation arrived at Riyadh International Airport at 1700 for an official 3-day visit.

At the steps of the aircraft, he was welcomed by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general; His Royal Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, amir of the Riyadh region; and Minister of Trade Dr Sulayman as-Salim.

Mr Gonzalez will hold talks during the visit with senior officials on a number of issues of mutual interest, including the role Spain could play in the EEC to back peace efforts in the region, as well as bilateral cooperation between the Kingdom and Spain.

The delegation accompanying the Spanish prime minister includes the minister of finance and economy, and a number of senior officials in the ministries of trade, planning, industry and technology in Spain.

King Fahd Fetes Guests

LD280047 Riyadh SPA in English 1919 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Riyadh, Feb 27, SPA — His Majesty King Fahd hosted tonight a dinner party in honor of the visiting Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

The banquet was attended by Prince Sultan, the second deputy premier and minister of defence and aviation; Prince Mut'ib ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the public works and housing minister; Prince

Nayil ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the interior minister; Prince Sulayman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the governor of Riyadh; and a number of princes from the royal family, and senior officials.

Gonzales Comments on Visit

LD280244 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Special correspondent Antonio Regalado's report from Riyadh]

[Excerpt] At Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, accompanied by Minister Boyer and officials from the INI [National Institute of Industry] were received by the second deputy prime minister and minister of defense, Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

The visit has a marked economic slant. Saudi Arabia is our second biggest exporter and supplies us with 100,000 barrels of oil per day. Debts have been increasing, but both the prime minister and the economy and finance minister have flatly denied to RNE [Spanish National Radio] that our debts to this country are \$14 billion. There will be some surprise at this said Felipe Gonzalez with a smile. Preparations are being made for collaboration in the [word indistinct] and gas refinery in Medina, in the Iraq east-west pipeline, in the agroindustrial field, in health, defense, aviation, electronics and shipping — more specifically at the Bazan shipyards in Cartagena.

He confirmed that he has no plans to meet with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in Amman next Thursday, although he does not dismiss the possibility, and he denied that there will be any kind of formal comment on Middle East events, although he acknowledged that he had come here to be briefed.

British 'Source' on Thatcher's Talks With Prince

GF270823 Doha QNA in Arabic 0743 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Feb QNA — An informed British source has said in a statement published here today that Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister and head of the National Guard, asked British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher during the talks he held with her in London recently to reconsider the question of British warships' intervention in the Gulf.

In a statement published in the Kuwaiti newspaper *AR-RAY' AL-'AMM* today, the source pointed out that Prince 'Abdallah requested that the British Government respect the decisions of the GCC defense ministers, which stress that the protection of their countries is the direct responsibility of these states themselves.

The source added that Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz stressed that attempts are still being made by several countries in order to convince the Iranian Government to stop the war with Iraq peacefully, so as to save both countries additional destruction and save the Gulf region from a lot of disorder.

However, the source, who asked to remain anonymous, did not

explain whether Mrs Thatcher will respond to the Saudi request or instead fulfill her commitment to the U.S. Government with regard to the participation of her naval forces in protecting the Strait of Hormuz.

AL-JAZIRAH Urges Peaceful End to Gulf War
GF260909 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Feb 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] The newspaper *AL-JAZIRAH* said that peace is the only way for Iraq and Iran to end the bloodshed, the only means to prevent any foreign international force from interfering in the region's affairs, and the only way to clear accounts by a forgiving Islamic fraternal spirit and by a sincere desire to achieve a happy ending. A happy ending will restore the smiles on the lips of the widows, orphans, mothers and fathers, who put their hands on their hearts, afraid that the rest of their children will be sacrificed in the war that has no goal except to continue itself, regardless of how high its price and how dear and precious the sacrifices are.

U.S. Refusal To Move Embassy in Israel Viewed
LD242209 Riyadh Domestic in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Feb 84

["News and Comment" by Husayn al-'Askari]

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has said that his country refuses to move its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, as it is a territory that Israel occupied during the 1967 war.

It is difficult to ignore such a statement from the U.S. secretary of state, one given in reply to a question from a member of the Congress' Foreign Relations Committee. (The American position) toward Jerusalem is that it is a special case, and the position of the city, from his country's point of view, will be decided through what he described as negotiations. The international community — including the United States — has not recognized the announcement by Israel in 1980 that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel.

However, this opposition did not affect the enemy's insistence, and obviously the secretary of state's recent statements will also have no effect. But the solution of such a problem is not affected by statements as much as by a clear stand. This is what has not yet been practiced by the U.S. Administration — whose actions indicate that the United States is biased toward Israel — probably because of an unfounded idea that exerting pressure on the side opposing Israel will help create a more suitable atmosphere. This mistake is probably what made the U.S. secretary state that his country refuses to move its embassy to Jerusalem. However, to rectify the mistakes, it is not enough to restrict the actions to the words only.

'Senior Official' on Fourth Development Plan
LD251326 Riyadh SPA in English 1201 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Riyadh, Feb 25, SPA — Saudi Arabia's fourth development plan will emphasize improving the level of services, utilities and products which the government provides for citizens directly and indirectly, and will seek to reshape economic development on eight basic strategic principles, a senior Saudi official has said.

In an interview with the Jidda-based *ARAB NEWS* published today, 'Abd al-Hamid Sa'id Dirhalli, the western province's director general for planning, said the Kingdom is now in the process of formulating the plan for 1985-1990 on the basis of this strategy which gives priority to agriculture, water and seeds to attain self-sufficiency in wheat and vegetables by 1990. The strategy includes the improvement of the economic performance by reducing production costs of public services and utilities.

It will also give the private sector an opportunity to undertake many of the economic tasks of the government. Under this policy the shares of sabic and petromin companies are being offered to the public and the commercial banks will be urged to extend credit facilities to production projects instead of import trade.

The third principle calls for rationalizing the system of direct and indirect subsidies on many goods and services provided by the state, Dirhalli said.

The fourth principle stresses that considerations of economy should determine the government's investment and expenditure decisions: which mean the development of economically promising natural resources, the exploration of mineral and sea resources and the mapping of their location, their future development and utilization, and the processing of available gas to the maximum extent possible. Under this principle, Dirhalli said, there will be both horizontal and vertical expansion in petrochemical industries as well as in the production of gas and petroleum derivatives through the private sector of mixed companies.

The fifth principle calls for the continuation of the development of Saudi manpower through evaluation of educational and training programs and curricula, Dirhalli said.

The sixth principle calls for attention to be given to the development of Saudi society in social welfare and health care for all, and to the society's participation in implementing the plan. Moreover, increasing attention will be given to programs for the rehabilitation and welfare of the handicapped, he said. Attention will also be given to preventive medicine and health education, he added.

UAE

'Zionist Blackmail' in U.S. Elections Scored
GF261344 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0740 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Dubayy, 26 Feb (WAM) — In its editorial today, the newspaper *AL-BAYAN* dealt with the U.S. presidential election and the pressure being exerted by the Zionist groups in this

regard in order to achieve maximum gains for Israel from the candidates.

The newspaper said that during the presidential battles, the candidates become easy victims of the Zionist blackmail, not only because they compete to gain the Jews' votes in the elections, but because their campaigning for the presidential nomination or seats in Congress needs financial contributions and favorable media coverage, pointing out that the Jews have control of the money and economy in most U.S. establishments, and they control at least 80 percent of the media in the United States.

In this regard, the newspaper pointed out that just when the Democratic candidate "Mondale" was showing his readiness to transfer the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, 28 members of Congress, led by the Jewish [as received] Senator Moynihan, submitted to Congress a bill which presses President Reagan to immediately transfer the embassy to Jerusalem.

The newspaper affirmed that a step to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem is enough to blow away any hope for improving the ugly U.S. image and to put all the Arab peoples in the anti-U.S. camp.

AL-BAYAN said that President Reagan's stance is not enviable because he knows the disastrous consequences of this plan, pointing out that Reagan does not wish to please the Zionist lobby less than his competitors, but at the same time he assuringly listened — during his recent meeting with the Egyptian president and the Jordanian king — that such a decision will guarantee the breaking of the last bond between the Arabs and Washington.

Concluding its editorial, *AL-BAYAN* asked: What have the Arabs prepared to counter the Zionist blackmail campaign in the U.S. presidential election, which has started and still has 200 days before the actual election date.

AL-KHALIJ on Iran's Occupation of Iraqi Land

GF261902 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic
26 Feb 84 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "We Denounce the Occupation of Any Iraqi Land"]

[Text] Since the Iraqi-Iranian war began in 1980, we declared our stand openly and frankly. We said that this war should stop and that differences between the two neighboring Muslim countries should be solved on the basis of dialogue and according to mutual interests, in order to gather the resources of the Arabs and the Muslims and deploy them against the Israeli enemy and its allies.

We warned at that time and announced on several subsequent occasions that the escalation of war and the continued occupation of one party's land by the other provides the ambitious foreign powers with the awaited opportunity to intervene in the internal affairs of both countries, as well as in the Arabian Gulf region, and leads to dividing the Arab situation and to weakening the unity of the Muslim world.

When the Iranian forces carried their offensive against

Al-Basrah, we said clearly that Iran had no right, just as no other foreign state has any right to occupy or dominate any given piece of Iraqi or Arab land. This land belongs to the Iraqi people and it is an Arab land. We denounced the Iranian attitude and called on Tehran not to repeat such an action.

During the past few days, the war has intensified with both sides shelling Arab and Islamic towns. Then this shelling developed into a savage war in which both sides have deployed hundreds of thousands of troops, and in which Iran attacked Iraqi territory from several directions.

What Iran is officially announcing and what its army is attempting to do by seizing Iraqi territories with the aim of occupying them, is an unjustified action regarding which one cannot remain silent. This action harms every Arab and constitutes an aggression against a fraternal people whose interests are our interests and whose destiny is our destiny.

We denounce what Iran is carrying out against Iraq and call on it to stop these attempts because the language of expansionism does not solve problems. To the contrary, such language deepens problems, severs links, and makes violence the only means, but the wrong one, for solving problems.

The four years of war have proven that both parties valiantly defended their land, and this is the essential fact that should be borne in the minds of both the Iraqi and Iranian leadership. One that possesses such a stand in war should have the courage to seek peace too, particularly now that the powers which have ambitions in both countries and in the Gulf have clearly shown their criminal schemes to intervene in the region.

Palestine is calling both Iraq and Iran. This is their honorable fighting arena, and any action other than this is nothing but a waste of souls, resources and property.

YAR

SFRY President Visits, Makes Statement

GF271856 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT
27 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Mika Spiljak, president of the SFRY presidency, arrived in San'a' at 1800 today on an official friendly visit to the republic, at the invitation of brother leader Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, secretary general of the General People's Congress.

In a statement to SABA, President Mika Spiljak said: This is my first official visit to the YAR, leading a high-ranking delegation which hopes to strengthen relations between our two friendly countries. We shall exchange views with President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on a number of current, complicated international issues and our talks will concentrate on the core issues of the world crisis, foremost of which is the Middle East issue.

The Yugoslav president said: We shall also discuss with the president ways to improve coordination among the nonaligned countries, so that they can positively contribute to reducing world tension.

In his statement, the Yugoslav president pointed out that our country and Yugoslav abide by the principles of the Nonaligned Movement and adhere to them by words and deeds, and that neither is a member of the two blocs. He said: This requires that we intensify the contacts between our two countries within this framework.

At the conclusion of his statement, President Spiljak expressed his gratitude for the warm official and mass welcome, and said that this proves the firm and amicable feelings between our two friendly countries.

YAR-PDRY Military Committee Meets in San'a'
GF270435 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT
26 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The meetings of the first session for the year 1984 of the joint military committee of the two parts of the homeland began in the unity affairs office in San'a' this afternoon.

The YAR side was led by Lieutenant Colonel 'Ali Muhammad Salah, deputy chief of staff for military affairs, member of the Standing Committee, and chairman of the committee. The PDRY side was led by Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd al-Wasi Sallam, deputy minister of interior and chairman of the committee.

At the outset of the meeting, the deputy chief of staff welcomed the leader and members of the PDRY side. He said: Unity

efforts being exerted make it incumbent upon us in the military committee to do our best to fulfill the tasks assigned to the committee, which will discuss a number of laws during this session. He emphasized that the outcome of the Yemeni council meeting pushed these efforts forward.

He praised the outcome of the second session of the Yemeni Council held in Aden under Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers in the southern part of the homeland.

Lt Col 'Abd al-Wasi Sallam gave a reply speech in which he expressed his pleasure and the pleasure of the representatives of our southern part in the committee over the opening of the session in San'a'. He said: The joint military committee has fulfilled many of the tasks included in its agenda and it will fulfill more unity tasks during this session, which is held after the significant results of the Supreme Yemeni Council.

The representatives of the southern part of our homeland in the joint military committee arrived in San'a' this morning. They were led by Brother Lt Col 'Abd al-Wasi Sallam, deputy minister of interior.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Views Mideast, Gulf Issues*NC270656 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 26 Feb 84*

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stressed that Egypt will continue its efforts to bring about an overall and just settlement in the Middle East, find a lasting solution to the Palestinian issue, and achieve the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the occupied territory, including the Golan Heights. Egypt will also press for a settlement in Lebanon that will guarantee its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Such a settlement should be based on an understanding between all the Lebanese factions and sects and should bring about a balance between these factions in a way that would reflect the realities of the Lebanese internal situation and would guarantee stability in Lebanon.

This came in a statement 'Ali delivered today to a joint meeting of the People's Assembly Arab Affairs, Foreign Affairs, and Defense and National Security Affairs Committees. The meeting was chaired by Assembly Speaker Dr Kamil Laylah.

'Ali said Egypt honors its bilateral and multilateral agreements and adheres to the framework of peace in the Middle East and to the concomittent agreements. 'Ali also pointed out that the course of Egyptian-Israeli relations does not depend on Egypt alone, but also requires Israel to act in a favorable manner. 'Ali stressed that Egypt is demanding a speedy Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Israel should also show some favorable response to the unsettled points between the two countries and should demonstrate the flexibility needed to solve the Palestinian problem.

'Ali said Egypt has an unshakable commitment towards the issues of the Arab people, the African Continent, the Islamic community and the international community. He pointed out that the nonaligned principles will remain the focus of Egypt's international outlook. 'Ali added that Egypt will continue pursuing its Arab relations without sensitivities or formalities. Egypt is a part of the Arab world. Its links with this world are unquestionable and its historic role and contributions are beyond doubt.

'Ali said Egypt's foreign policy aims to achieve Egypt's national and pan-Arab interests, consolidate domestic development and construction, bolster Egyptian defensive capabilities, enhance Egypt's national security, and serve the Arab nation and the issue of peace and stability in the Middle East. He added that Egypt's foreign policy also aims to consolidate the integration march between Egypt and Sudan in order to attain the two peoples' desired objectives. This policy, 'Ali continued, also aims to maintain evenhanded relations with the two superpowers.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister further said Egypt's foreign policy aims to strengthen relations between Egypt and the United States on the basis of equality. U.S. economic aid to Egypt will be used to achieve the objectives of the development plan.

In his statement, 'Ali affirmed that the Iraq-Iran war has assumed a new serious turning point that would have a grave effect on stability in the Middle East. Iran, he added, has launched a wide-scale offensive deep inside Iraq, despite all the

initiatives to which Iraq has regularly responded.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said Iran's intransigence and rejection have led all these initiatives to a dead end. He emphasized that Egypt has supported and continues to support Iraq because of its just stand. Egypt condemns the Iranian aggression against an Arab territory and will exert all efforts to put an end to this destructive war. Kamal Hasan 'Ali said Egypt calls on the international community to adopt a firm stand to force Iran to respond to the voice of logic and to enter negotiations to solve this conflict.

'Ali noted that Egypt's invitation to resume its membership in the ICO — of which Egypt is a founding member — stresses the fact that Egypt's Government and people are dedicated to the Islamic world's issues. It is a fact that throughout history, Egypt has defended the sanctities of this world. 'Ali said the fourth ICO meeting in Casablanca marked the end of the minority's domination of the majority's will and the fall of the rejection and its maneuvers. Egypt achieved a political and diplomatic victory that will boost its international stature and enhance its political moves. 'Ali added that Egypt reiterates its vow to cooperate with its Muslim sisters to promote the Muslim world.

Reviewing the outcome of President Husni Mubarak's recent visit to the United States and his talks in Washington, 'Ali said President Mubarak called on the U.S. Administration to conduct a dialogue with the PLO, to reactivate its efforts for a Middle East settlement, to reactivate the Reagan plan, and to reaffirm the need for an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territory, including the Golan Heights. 'Ali said the Egyptian side called for a U.S. initiative to confront the Israeli settlement policy and to stop the repressive practices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He added that Egypt asked the U.S. Administration to conduct a dialogue with the PLO because the Palestinian problem is the core of the Middle East conflict.

'Ali explained that President Mubarak's meeting with King Husayn is part of the continuing consultations at the highest level to review the latest developments in the Middle East situation and to exchange views on and assess this situation. 'Ali reviewed the results of President Mubarak's recent tour of Africa, which included Zaire, Kenya, Somalia, and Tanzania. Its purpose was to purify the African atmosphere before the next African summit in Conakry, to find a solution to the current African problems and to discuss ways of cooperation among the Nile basin states.

'Ali asserted that Egypt believes in the need to resolve Sudanese-Ethiopian differences through negotiations and that Egypt is prepared to exert every effort to achieve this goal. He also asserted that Egypt has sought in the past 6 months to prepare the appropriate atmosphere for calming the situation between Somalia and Ethiopia. 'Ali said that President Mubarak's recent visit to Morocco strengthened Egyptian-Moroccan relations and that the two sides agreed on the importance of exploiting all opportunities to bolster the relations between them in all fields. He said views were also exchanged on Middle East developments and on African issues.

'Ali emphasized that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and his meeting with President

Husni Mubarak represent a victory of the moderate and realistic current over the current of rejection and extremism. This will help in reaching a suitable formula acceptable to the Palestinians to activate their cause and to exploit it in order to realize the Palestinian people's legitimate aspirations.

SFRY's Spiljak Thanks Mubarak; Statement Issued

Spiljak Telegrams Mubarak

*LD272217 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2106 GMT
27 Feb 84*

[Text] Cairo, February 27 (TANJUG) — On leaving Egypt at the end of his state visit, Mika Spiljak, president of the Presidency of Yugoslavia, has sent a telegram to President Husni Mubarak of Egypt, emphasizing that the talks he had in Cairo were very useful and successful and contributed to a further strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

These talks will also contribute to strengthening peace and security in the world, as well as to promoting the role of the movement of the nonaligned countries to which the two countries are fully attached, the telegram says, among other things.

President Spiljak also thanked the people and government of Egypt, as well as President Mubarak personally for their hospitality and friendship accorded to him during his just completed visit.

Text of Joint Statement

NC271607 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA) — Egypt and Yugoslavia have emphasized that the establishment of a comprehensive, just and durable peace in the Middle East must be based on Israel's total withdrawal from all the territories occupied since 1967.

The two countries emphasized the need to acknowledge the national, legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and their right to determine their future and to establish their state on their land.

In a joint statement issued today following the conclusion of the visit of Mika Spiljak, the president of the Yugoslav State Presidency, to Egypt, Egypt and Yugoslavia express their deep concern over the continuation of tension in the area. Egypt and Yugoslavia demand in the joint statement a quick and unconditional withdrawal of the Israel forces from Lebanon as a first step toward the restoration of Lebanon's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Presidents Husni Mubarak and Mika Spiljak express their concern over the escalation of the war between Iraq and Iran. They demand an immediate halt to the military operations between the two sides and the start of negotiations aimed at finding solutions to the pending issues between the two member-states of the Nonaligned Movement.

The statement deals with the situation in Africa. In this respect, the two sides stress their support for the efforts being exerted to bolster and to strengthen the OAU with a view to increasing its effectiveness in its capacity as an indispensable factor in solving the current crises and the African development problems. The two sides also demand that a quick solution be found to the question of Namibia's independence.

In the joint statement, Egypt and Yugoslavia express their conviction that the Nonaligned Movement should continue its efforts to overcome the current grave developments through the strengthening and bolstering of the movement's role in international relations. The two sides stress that the movement must shoulder its historic role in implementing the resolutions of the seventh [nonaligned] summit that was held in New Delhi last March, which pertain to peace, security and independence, as well as those resolutions which pertain to the halt of the arms race and the establishment of a new, more just international economic order.

The two sides assert the need that the Mediterranean area should become a zone of peace, security and cooperation, devoid of conflicts, in conformity with the spirit of the UN resolutions and the stands of the Nonaligned Movement.

The statement explains that the expanded discussions between Presidents Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Mika Spiljak took place in an atmosphere of frankness and understanding which characterize the relations between the two friendly states, members of the Nonaligned Movement.

The following is the text of the joint Egyptian-Yugoslav statement:

In response to an invitation by Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Mika Spiljak, the president of the SFRY State Presidency paid an official and cordial visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt from 25 to 27 February 1984.

During the discussions which they held among themselves and together with their assistants, Presidents Mubarak and Spiljak reviewed the progress of the Egyptian-Yugoslav relations since the two presidents' meeting in Belgrade in June 1983. They expressed their satisfaction with the positive continuation of these traditional relations and friendship, and fruitful cooperation in the political, economic, technological, scientific and cultural spheres. They agreed to benefit from the available resources to develop and to expand the horizons of these relations.

The two sides held extensive talks in an atmosphere of openness and understanding, consistent with the relations between the two friendly countries, which are both members of the Nonaligned Movement. The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the renewal of the trilateral agreement for economic cooperation between Egypt, Yugoslavia and India. They expressed their hope that an additional list of products will be included in this agreement — a matter to be discussed in Cairo next March. The agreement will provide for an increase in economic cooperation and may serve as an example of successful cooperation between nonaligned countries.

The two sides have exchanged views on the grave and intricate international situation which is characterized by serious crises which affect international peace and security. The two presidents expressed their conviction that the Nonaligned Movement should continue its efforts aimed at overcoming the current grave developments. The role of the Nonaligned Movement in international relations should be strengthened and promoted.

The Nonaligned Movement should use its independence from the [Eastern and Western] blocs to assume its historic role in carrying out the resolutions of the seventh [nonaligned] summit conference — resolutions pertaining to peace, security, independence and the development of every country, as well as those pertaining to the discontinuation of the arms race and the establishment of a more equitable international economic order.

The two sides underline the grave turn which international economic relations have taken, particularly the difficult situation faced by the developing countries — a situation the gravity of which is accentuated by the international economic crisis. The two sides warn that such a negative trend, and the repercussions it may have, represent a threat to the independence, sovereignty and domestic development of the nonaligned and developing countries.

In this respect, Egypt and the SFRY beseech all the developed countries to respond in an objective manner to the nonaligned and developing countries' call for an early start of international talks aiming to establish the new international economic order.

Having thoroughly scrutinized the Middle East situation, the two presidents expressed their deep concern over the continuation of tension and conflict in the area. They reiterate that the establishment of an overall, just and lasting peace in the Middle East must be based on the complete Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967 and the recognition of the national, legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people — under the leadership of the PLO, its sole legitimate representative — which include the right of self-determination and a state of their own on their land.

Out of deep concern over the escalation of tension in Lebanon, the two sides support the prompt and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli troops from Lebanon as a first step toward Lebanon's restoration of its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Such a step will pave the way for the Lebanese people to settle their problems on their own and on the basis of national conciliation and unity.

Presidents Mubarak and Spiljak expressed their concern over the escalation of the war between Iraq and Iran, which is causing huge losses in life and great material losses. They demand an immediate halt to the military operations and the start of negotiations to find solutions to the pending issues between the two neighboring states — that are members of the Nonaligned Movement — on the basis of full and accurate respect for national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and on the basis of noninterference in the domestic affairs and of consideration of the just interests and rights of both sides.

While appealing to the international society to shoulder its

responsibility toward putting an immediate end to this war, the presidents express their support of the new mediation efforts, particularly those exerted by the nonaligned states, to achieve a peaceful solution based on the UN Charter and the policies of nonalignment. The two sides express their determination to forge ahead with the continuous contacts aimed at holding consultations on the Middle East developments and on means and ways, both bilateral and through the Nonaligned Movement, to establish peace in the area.

After reviewing the situation in Africa, the two sides expressed their support for the efforts exerted by the African states to bolster and strengthen the OAU and to increase its effectiveness in its capacity as an indispensable factor in solving the current crisis, development problems and relations among the African states. The two sides further expressed their full support for the hopes of the African states to strengthen their independence and security and to achieve economic and social development.

The two presidents stressed the urgent need to quickly find a way which would lead to the independence of Namibia and to the safeguarding of the rights of its people so that they may be able to determine freely the course of their progress in full conformity with the UN resolutions.

The two sides reassert the need to turn the Mediterranean area into a zone of peace, security and cooperation, devoid of confrontation and conflict, in harmony with the spirit of the UN resolutions and the Nonaligned Movement's stances on this issue.

The two sides emphasize the great importance of the high level meetings between Egypt and Yugoslavia, which have given a new impetus and dimensions for expanding the scope of cooperation between the two states, and have contributed to the strengthening of the role which the Nonaligned Movement is performing, and to the cause of peace in the Middle East conflict, Europe and all parts of the world.

The president of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the president of the SFRY State Presidency express their satisfaction with the meeting held between Egypt and Yugoslavia on the highest level and with the discussions held and understanding reached. This understanding is considered a contribution to the consolidation of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Mika Spiljak, the president of the SFRY Presidency, expressed his gratitude to the government and people of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the warm and generous hospitality accorded to him and members of the delegation accompanying him during their friendly visit to Egypt.

Mika Spiljak, the president of the SFRY Presidency, has invited Husni Mubarak, the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, to visit Yugoslavia. The invitation has been accepted, and an agreement will be reached on its date.

Official Views Mubarak Talks in Washington

PM241455 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 24 Feb 84
pp 26, 27

[Interview with Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the Presidential Bureau for Political Affairs and first foreign under secretary, by Raghidah Dirgham in Washington "during President Mubarak's recent visit"]

[Excerpts] Question: In your talks with the Americans you confirmed your commitment to the Camp David accords, and you also spoke about the French-Egyptian initiative. What do you have in mind? Combining the two?

Answer: We see that there are three proposed formulas that can be put together; that is, to find the common denominator among them. These formulas are Reagan's initiative, the Egyptian-French plan, and the Fes resolutions. There are many things in common in these three formulas: First, acceptance of a peaceful settlement of the conflict; second, the basis of settlement is Security Council Resolution 242 supplemented by the part [presumably from the Egyptian-French plan] relating to the settlement of the Palestinian problem, since Resolution 242 does not deal with the Palestinian problem from all its aspects, but simply refers to the refugee problem. We believe that it is necessary to add to Resolution 242 the political dimension of Palestinian demands. The required addition is acceptance of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. We believe that this is a central point, because if such a right is not established the Palestinian problem will remain pending.

Question: The French-Egyptian initiative refers to the "legitimate national rights" of the Palestinian people, while Camp David simply refers to the "legitimate rights" of these people without the term "national," which, as you know, the United States interprets as meaning the likelihood of accepting an independent state for the Palestinians. Did you suggest altering this phrase in the French-Egyptian initiative and what was the U.S. reaction?

Answer: At present, we are not talking in detail about phrases, terms, formulas or forms. We are stressing to the Americans the need to deal with the Palestinian problem on the grounds that it is the crux of the conflict. Dealing with it calls for adopting a certain attitude toward the principal demand of the Palestinian people. What we see is that the Palestinian people must be allowed to exercise their right to self-determination. The right to self-determination means determining their own future and giving the Palestinian people the freedom to establish a national entity. The national entity could take many forms. One of the forms which we believe could be acceptable and practical is that of establishing a constitutional link between Jordan and the Palestinian entity, which could be in the shape of a federal union or a confederation, according to what the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples may wish. The advantage of this formula is that it finds broad international acceptance and lessens U.S. rejection and, to a lesser extent, Israeli rejection of establishing such an entity.

Question: Is it with PLO participation or participation by Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza only?

Answer: We cannot talk about the participation of a certain sector of the Palestinian people without the other sector. We must deal with an organization representing all the Palestinian people and this organization is the PLO. We are all committed to this.

Question: Did you suggest to the Americans in one way or another the possibility of tackling the PLO charter with a view to changing the clauses to which the Americans object, and which they interpret as a call for the destruction of Israel and...

Answer: We are not authorized by the PLO to discuss this subject. The proposal that we put to the Americans and others is that the entire Arab nation has accepted the principle of peaceful settlement. Article 7 of the Fes resolution is quite clear in accepting a peaceful settlement and peaceful coexistence. We believe that this is a basic step which is adequate at the first stage. This step requires a response on the part of Israel. There must be an Israeli initiative on the same level so that stands will agree. Israel must put forward its views on peace and on ways of coexistence with the Palestinian people. Israeli disregard for the Palestinian people's right cannot continue. It is not enough to talk in general terms and slogans; rather there should be a specific view. Is the Israeli view based on the annexation of the West Bank and Gaza to Israel? Or is there an Israeli commitment to the spirit that prevailed on our part since we began the peace process, which is to gradually liquidate the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza so that the Israeli authority will be replaced by a Palestinian authority in order for the Palestinian people to be able to administer their own affairs and for the possibility of real coexistence between the Palestinians and the Israelis to be created.

Question: According to my information, the idea of Yasir 'Arafat's acceptance of Resolution 242 was raised with the Americans and King Husayn on the grounds that his acceptance of the resolution would lead to opening the door to his acceptance by the Americans.

Answer: The United States so far is still asking for a step to be taken by the PLO before it will enter into a dialogue with it. We see things differently. We believe that the PLO's acceptance of the principle of a peaceful settlement at this stage is sufficient. It is not fair to ask the PLO to take several unilateral steps. There should be something in return from the Israeli side. If we ask the Palestinian side to accept Resolution 242 in advance, then this would mean that the Palestinian side is surrendering its most important cards before entering into negotiations. What will it have when it negotiates?

Question: Therefore, we are confronting two quite opposite stands: the U.S. stand and the Egyptian stand. Should we therefore draw the conclusion that this trip did not lead to any understanding on any of these points?

Answer: No, we cannot say this. At least the U.S. side now realizes the importance of moving simultaneously and in parallel in tackling the Lebanese crisis and the Palestinian problem, and of adopting a clear stand on the question of ending the Iraq-Iran war. This is one point. As for the other point, it concerns the increasing U.S. belief in the importance of the Palestinian role. The frequent insistence on our part and on the part of the other

Arab sides that the U.S. Administration should build bridges of contact with the PLO, and the insistence that it is impossible to ignore the PLO's existence as the representative of the Palestinian people and that such contact is vital for any progress — this, in our estimation, is in itself capable of changing the U.S. attitude in the end. We cannot expect the U.S. attitude to change suddenly and all at once; rather there is a need for gradual steps. The degree of U.S. understanding of acceptance — first, of the PLO's role in the peace process and, second, of the Palestinian people's right — is an on-going thing, and a matter requiring constant and continuous work.

Question: The United States is passing through an election year and we can now see distinguished U.S.-Israeli relations. Yet two Arab parties, Egypt and Jordan — I am referring here to the Egyptian side — come to tell the Americans things that they know quite well and propose stands that do not agree with the U.S. thinking in an election year. If...

Answer: You will be surprised if you always assume that the Americans know these points. Sometime they know them and other times they don't. Sometimes they understand them from a certain angle and an ill-conceived view. It is our duty to further explain matters. In any case, finish your question.

Question: My question is: What should make us think that there will be any results, or move, or change in the U.S. view, particularly this year when Reagan will not wish to provoke Israel or the Jewish lobby? Should we assume that there might be a change in the long-term; that is after the presidential election?

Answer: We assume, indeed we know, that any action by the U.S. Administration during an election year is difficult. But we also realize from the present facts that the U.S. Administration is keen not to face any situation whose result might be to embarrass the United States or involve it in a major crisis. The clearest example is the situation concerning the Marine force in Lebanon and the question of whether it should remain or withdraw, or be moved to U.S. ships or back to the United States. These are questions that are being raised in the election campaign as important issues.

Question: During your meetings with officials, did you criticize the United States for the policy of shelling it is pursuing in Lebanon?

Answer: It is not a matter of criticizing. The idea is that we should draw the attention of the United States to the likely consequences of a certain behavior. We believe that the policy of shelling and countershelling will lead to nothing. If it could lead to resolving the situation it would have resolved it long ago. It is only an escalation of violence and counterviolence; it encourages the parties to fight one another. This will lead us to nothing. This is our basic point. We cannot possibly think that the carrying out of such partial operations could lead to resolving the situation or improving it. On the contrary, they will lead to further complicating the situation.

Question: There now seems to be a need for some kind of dialogue between the United States and Syria, at least in order to solve the problem of involvement there. Did you in fact

encourage the Americans to have a dialogue with the Syrians?

Answer: We encourage dialogue with all the Arab parties, including Syria. Syria cannot be ignored as a party. It cannot be ignored that Syria has a right in the Golan. When we speak about a comprehensive settlement, the Golan Heights is definitely one of its major elements. Also one cannot ignore the fact that there is a certain Syrian presence and Syrian attitude toward the Lebanese crisis. Because we are interested and really care to end this crisis and give Lebanon an opportunity to begin a normal life like any other people, we take into consideration the fact that we should deal with the Syrian situation. If the United States wishes to exert a genuine effort to ease the crisis and then settle it there must be a dialogue with the Syrian party as well.

Question: In his final speeches on the visits by King Husayn and President Mubarak, President Reagan referred to "state-sponsored terrorism." Which states are meant?

Answer: We do not know who they mean because they did not discuss this subject with us. This differs in accordance with the situation. Sometimes they accuse Syria of being behind a certain operation and other times they concentrate on Iran. We believe that this is part of the "map" existing in this situation, and is due to the difficulty of defining the responsibility precisely.

Question: A last question as you are short of time. This concerns the Soviet role in solving the Middle East problem, including its role in solving the Lebanese crisis. It is proposed at the United Nations that the Multinational Force [MNF] be replaced with a UN force.

Answer: This is our view as well.

Question: Which means the resumption of the Soviet role in Lebanon directly and through the Security Council?

Answer: Our aim is that we want to distance Lebanon from foreign influence by any party, because experience has shown that Lebanon suffered a lot because of the conflicting foreign influence which has used the Lebanese territory as a ground for conflict. We do not want any Western or Eastern influence to be restored in Lebanon. We want only to distance Lebanon from this so as to give it a chance. Since the Soviet Union is a superpower and a Security Council member-state, whose weight in the area cannot be denied, it can participate in the discussions and debates and give its views regarding the formation of this force. We do not know whether the Soviet Union is for or against this. The talk about the Soviet Union in this regard is premature because we believe that it is in the interest of Lebanon and the area that the force that will undertake keeping peace and stability in Lebanon should be an international force under UN auspices. This is better than having a Multinational Force.

Foreign Minister 'Ali To Visit Iraq in March

NC241657 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text]Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA)— MENA has learned that Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will pay a short visit to Iraq during the second week of March.

During the visit, 'Ali will convey a message from President Husni Mubarak to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. He will also hold talks with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in continuation of their previous talks on the Middle East and on bilateral relations.

'Ali Says Cairo's Proposals on Chad Accepted

NC272132 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, stated that the African Foreign Ministers Council agreed during its closed session today to Egypt's proposals regarding Chad. Ghali said the proposals call for the withdrawal of the request submitted by the legitimate government of Chad to include its dispute with Libya on the conference agenda and also Libya's request to discuss the deteriorating situation in Chad.

'Ali added that the African Ministerial Council agreed to Egypt's proposals regarding the withdrawal of both requests and that the dispute concerning national conciliation in Chad was relegated to the next African summit. 'Ali said a compromise was achieved on the Chad and Western Sahara issues through their relegation to the next summit conference.

Ghali Departs for Addis Ababa Conference

NC250740 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0722 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, this morning departed Cairo for Khartoum at the head of Egypt's delegation to the African foreign ministers conference. Dr Ghali will make a 1-day visit to Khartoum before heading for Addis Ababa to attend the conference.

During this visit, Dr Ghali will hold talks with Sudanese Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak. These talks will be held within the context of the coordination and consultations between the two countries in connection with the topics on the agenda of the African foreign ministers conference. The conference will begin next Monday in Addis Ababa. The Egyptian and Sudanese ministers are scheduled to leave Khartoum for Addis Ababa tomorrow to attend the conference.

In a departure statement at the airport, Dr Butrus Ghali said that, at the conference, the African foreign ministers will discuss matters connected with the western desert, Chad, and the consolidation of relations among the African countries in the economic domains. Dr Ghali said that, during his stay in Addis Ababa, he will hold discussions with the African foreign ministers attending the conference. The purpose will be to bolster Egypt's relations with the African states, to explain the Egyptian stance on the Middle East crisis, to emphasize Egypt's dedication to the resolution of the Palestinian problem and the Lebanese crisis, and to seek to resolve African issues within the framework of OAU objectives and principles.

Preparations Made for Palestinian Support Conference

NC271730 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA) — Preparations are currently being made in Cairo for the Conference on Support for the Palestinian People, which is scheduled to be held in the Egyptian capital on 30 March, and will be attended by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. The conference is being organized by the Egyptian Committee of the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization [AAPSO].

Ahmad Hamrush, the secretary general of the Egyptian Committee of AAPSO, has stated that former UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky have accepted the committee's invitation to attend the conference. He said that responses to the committee's invitation are expected from other delegations and personalities.

President Mubarak Receives Foreign Visitors

Meets Romanian Defense Official

NC271249 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received Romanian Deputy Defense Minister Lieutenant General Stanculescu, who is currently visiting Cairo. The Romanian ambassador to Egypt, Ion Iosefide, attended the meeting.

Receives Hungarian Agriculture Minister

NC251034 Cairo MENA in English 1020 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, Feb 25 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak today received Hungarian Minister of Agriculture and Food Jeno Vansca and his accompanying delegation, currently visiting here.

The meeting was attended by the state minister for agriculture and food security, Dr. Yusif Wali.

Burundi Foreign Minister Departs for Jidda

NC251659 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — Burundi Foreign Minister Laurent Nzeyimana left Cairo this afternoon en route to Jidda, ending a 5-day official visit to Egypt.

During his visit, he was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Nzeyimana also held talks with Egyptian officials regarding the promotion and development of bilateral relations in various areas.

After his visit to Saudi Arabia, Nzeyimana will go to Addis Ababa to attend the African foreign ministers meeting from 27 February to 4 March.

AL-JUMHURIYAH on Husayn-'Arafat Meeting
NC262301 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — The Cairo newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* emphasizes that the meeting in Amman today between Jordanian King Husayn and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, to coordinate their positions vis-a-vis the initiatives for peace with Israel, is the first right step on the road to a political solution to the Palestinian issue.

In its Monday commentary, the newspaper says that if the door of political solution is the only door that is presently open to the issue, this door must be entered through coordination between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. This is because these two peoples' issues have blended together historically and geographically in a way that makes it necessary for there to be a common Palestinian-Jordanian stand in any future negotiations.

The newspaper accuses hardline Palestinian forces and Arab forces backing them of being the cause for delaying this meeting. This is to prevent 'Arafat from reaching a reasonable agreement on coordinating positions with the Jordanian Government. These forces are inconvenienced by the Palestinians having an independent political will. The paper emphasizes that the only way to achieve a political solution to the Palestinian issue is for the Palestinian will to be free of any outside pressures.

Fundamentalists' Trial Concludes 27 Feb
NC271850 Paris AFP in English 1753 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, Feb 27 (AFP) — The fate of 302 Islamic fundamentalists accused of plotting against the state and seeking to set up an Iranian-style government there will be announced in court on July 21 after marathon hearings that ended here today.

The public prosecutor has asked for 299 of the members of the Islamic Al-Jihad Movement to be put to death for trying to form a secret organisation to stage a coup and replace the government with an Islamic regime. Their trial began on December 2, 1982, and has been virtually ignored by the local press.

Among the accused are blind theologian 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman, acquitted during the trials of President Anwar as-Sadat's assassins, a military intelligence officer, Lieutenant-Colonel 'Abbud az-Zumur, and about 20 students and lecturers at Asyut University, which is 380 kms south of here. The students and lecturers are also accused of provoking riots after the assassination of President as-Sadat on October 6, 1981, which led to the deaths of 120 police and about 60 civilians in Asyut.

Defense lawyers have denied the charges of plotting to overthrow the state. Al-Jihad had no leader, no central finances, no weapons and no national organisation, they have said. The defense has said the defendants were "tortured" to "extricate confessions," and claimed there were no links between the assassination of President as-Sadat and the rioting which began four days later. Commandos who killed the president acted independently of the Egyptian fundamentalist movement, according to the defense.

Eighteen of the accused will be sentenced in their absence, while 19 others were sentenced to between 5 and 25 years in prison in the trials following the assassination. Five men were executed in April 1982, for killing President as-Sadat.

Tomorrow, another 176 Al-Jihad fundamentalists appear in court here charged with "attempting to overthrow the Egyptian regime by force". They face sentences of hard labor and imprisonment.

Opposition Leader Criticizes U.S. Policy
PM240936 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 20 Feb 84 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Peace Chances in the Middle East"]

[Text] Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad has stated that the U.S. Administration has so far failed to promote a peaceful solution in Lebanon because of its inability to solve the main problems of Palestine. He added that the U.S. Administration's negative attitude, despite President Mubarak's explanations during his visit to President Reagan in the United States, will only further complicate the issue and increase the risk of armed conflict between Syria and Israel.

Mustafa Kamil Murad also said that the two superpowers, namely the United States and the Soviet Union, still hold the strings and the key to a fundamental solution to the problem. A restoration of detente between the two superpowers and an easing of the tension between them, he said, would reflect positively on the issue of peace. He added that with Chernenko succeeding the late Andropov, the two superpowers now have an opportunity to do something.

Mubarak Speaks on Values at Awards Ceremony
NC262030 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak tonight attended the ceremony which was held at the Al-Jumhuriyah Theater. He distributed state prizes of appreciation and encouragement to a selected group of the sons of Egypt, who proved their efficiency in various areas, such as the sciences, arts, literature and culture. His excellency handed out the prizes.

The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din; 'Abd al-Hamid Radwan, minister of state for culture; and senior state officials.

President Mubarak delivered a speech in which he said: The renaissance of modern Egypt depends on the performance of men of letters, scientists and artists who plan the future Egypt. Many values prevailing in Egyptian society are now in dire need of reconsideration because they affect the conduct of society in various aspects of life. Therefore, it is necessary to introduce new values governing our individual and collective conduct. They must be genuine Egyptian values springing from our traditions.

The president added: Sincerity in work, respect for duty, seriousness, purity of hand, heart and tongue, and strictness in

applying the law are among the most important components of the new society. The most important value is that of affiliation with Egypt, loyalty to its sacred soil, and emphasis that Egypt is above all.

President Mubarak referred to the question of Egyptian literature and the need to take care of it. He demanded that a comprehensive study be made within 3 months, in which establishments concerned with literature would participate, preparing a comprehensive plan to improve Egyptian literature and to restore it to its natural position in the Arab homeland, Africa, and the Third World. He said that the intellectual elite are the ones qualified to lead the nation along the path of progress. It is their duty to fuse with the people in their daily life, suffering and ambitions.

The president demanded that thinking and art should be for the sake of life. He demanded also that all creative potentialities be mobilized in the service of the new Egyptian renaissance.

Natural Gas Field Discovered in Western Desert

NC262234 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2218 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo , 26 Feb (MENA) — In its Monday issue, the newspaper *AL-AKHBAR* reports that a natural gas field has been discovered in the western desert. It is estimated to contain approximately one trillion (a million million) cubic meters of gas.

The newspaper says that the company which discovered this field, which is located close to the Abu al-Gharadiq natural gas field, is preparing to announce the discovery soon.

Siege of Khark Island Begins 27 February

*JN271832 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1745 GMT
27 Feb 84*

[Text] A spokesman for the Armed Forces General Command has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Iraq warned a long time ago that it cannot remain idle toward the Iranian regime's continued rejection of the UN Security Council Resolution No 540 and toward the continuation of the abnormal situation under which it is deprived of its right to utilize its ports and installations in the Arab Gulf, while Iran is using its ports and installations on a large scale. Iraq has repeatedly announced that it will use the available means to defend its vital interests and will punish the Tehran regime, which is persisting in its aggression and its rejection of the UN Security Council resolutions.

In this regard, we particularly refer to what president-leader Saddam Husayn said in his speech on 6 January 1984. He said: Iraq, which has from the beginning of the conflict with Iran been eager to abide by international law and to respect the international institutions, has fulfilled its moral and practical commitments toward the Security Council and toward the issue of security and stability in the region. After we have given enough time for the Security Council resolution to be implemented, we must emphasize our natural right to defend our basic interests and deal the appropriate blows to the Iranian regime's interest — whatever they exist and with all the available means. Iraq will choose the suitable circumstances to exercise this natural right. Unquestionably, any new Iranian offensive against Iraqi civilian posts or any new military offensive against our Armed Forces, which are defending our international borders, will be an additional reason for carrying out deterrent activities in order to punish this regime. This regime is insisting on war and destruction; is threatening security and stability in the region; is ignoring the resolutions of the international organizations as well as the will of the entire international community on the need to terminate the war and the need for sovereignty, peace, security, and stability in the region; and is exporting crime to the region and the world.

On this occasion, we reaffirm our previous warnings about considering some of the Arab Gulf zones as military operation zones. We hope that the concerned parties will take these warnings into consideration when sending ships to the region. Iraq will not bear any responsibility for any losses which might be sustained by the parties ignoring these warnings. This is what the president-leader said; it was a clear and obvious warning.

The Iranian regime has for several days been launching a large-scale aggression aimed at occupying our lands and plundering our wealth. This regime clearly disclosed its ambitions on Iraq and its wealth in the speech that Iranian President Khamene'i delivered on 24 February 1984, in which he talked about his ambitions to occupy Iraqi oilfields in the marshes' area and about the aggressor regime's intentions to exploit these oilfields. This is what the president of the Iranian regime said a few hours after a group of his forces infiltrated into that area.

In the beginning, we wished to give the enemy eloquent lessons on the battlefields, and we have done so. We have crushed its successive waves, as well as its waves which infiltrated the oilfield areas. Today, the valiant pilots of the Iraqi Air Force did what we have previously said we would do. A group of the capable Air Force aircraft dealt destructive blows to a number of oil tankers anchored in the Khark Island zone. All of our aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God. This strong blow begins the first day of the siege we decided to impose on this region, which we have announced several times before is a war operations zone.

We will — with God's help — continue our strikes until the regime of evil and aggression abandons its aggression, gives in to the logic of rights and justice, and agrees to the UN Security Council resolutions which stipulate the need to stop the war and solve the problems peacefully. They also stipulate the right of all the countries in the region to enjoy the freedom of navigation and to use all of their ports and installations.

When we proved our high feeling of responsibility as expressed in the policy of self-restraint we have exercised in the past — just as we proved our ability to strike when we decide to do so — we hold the Iranian regime fully responsible for the consequences this entails.

We again warn all the oil tankers and ships against approaching the Khark Island zone and the other Iranian ports. We also warn against continuing to cooperate with this aggressive regime, which is exporting crime and chaos both to the countries in the region and to the world. We must say that dealing with this regime lacks any legitimate and moral basis. It is only a game aimed at feeding the Iranian war machine, and an encouragement for this evil regime to continue the policy of aggression, expansion, and exporting chaos.

At the same time, we warn that we will strike — and at the proper time — all of the Iranian targets, whether on land or at sea, in order to punish the regime which insists on committing aggression against our country and on harming our people.

Victory is only granted by God.

[Dated] 27 February 1984

Armed Forces General Command Issues Communiques

No 1,387 — 27 February

*JN271815 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT
27 Feb 84*

[Communique No 1,387 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 27 February 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

If they come out to fight you, they will show you their backs, and no help shall they get. [Koranic verse]

The zealous sons of Iraq, who are waging heroic and successful battles against the aggressor Iranian enemy and who are repuls-

ing their criminal aggression on our land, people, and holy places, will remain — with God's help — fully qualified to carry the banner of victory, glory, and honor. Their enemies — the enemies of God and humanity, will grovel in the mud of defeat. The results of the activities are as follows:

1. Our valiant units continued to use all types of weapons to deal violent blows to the enemy units, troop concentrations, and defeated remnants within the operational sector of the heroic IV Army Corps. Fierce battles took place during which our units achieved splendid results and inflicted very heavy losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment on the enemy. A large number of enemy personnel were also captured. The enemy's dead, and their destroyed weapons and equipment are still littering the battlefield. We will furnish you with the details of these losses later.

2. The III Army Corps' brave units are continuing to pound and destroy the enemy units and concentrations within its operational sector, inflicting further massive losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment. During yesterday's battles the known enemy losses in the abovementioned sector totalled 2,059 killed; a large number wounded; many captured; large quantities of enemy equipment, vehicles, and various weapons destroyed; and a large number of serviceable weapons and equipment seized.

3. A force from our valiant units attacked the enemy positions and units in the area opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield. The force clashed with the enemy troops with all types of weapons, and managed to inflict large losses on the enemy personnel, equipment, and weapons. It also managed to seize a number of the enemy's serviceable medium and light weapons and hardware.

4. Since this morning, the pilots of our valiant Air Force have been launching strong attacks and painful blows on the enemy units, positions, and concentrations of personnel and vehicles in the III and IV Army Corps operational sectors, inflicting very heavy losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment on the enemy. Several times today, formations of our bold fighter planes attacked several of the enemy's helicopters opposite our forward units' positions in the III and IV Army Corps operational sectors. We managed to deal them direct and effective hits, and to destroy seven helicopters. Two of them are of the Chinook type, one of the Bell type, and one of the (Oscar) type. The enemy's destroyed helicopters were seen burning and crashing in the area. Our aircraft also hit another enemy helicopter. All of our fighter planes returned safely and successfully to base, praise be to God. Our fighter planes today carried out 256 combat missions.

5. Our helicopter gunships today carried out intensive raids against the enemy units, defeated remnants, and concentrations of troops and vehicles in the III and IV Army Corps operational sectors, scoring direct and very effective hits; setting several enemy positions, equipment, and vehicles on fire; and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy troop concentrations. All of our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, praise be to God. Our helicopter gunships carried out 219 combat missions today.

6. Our air defense means and ground defenses shot down one enemy fighter plane yesterday. It was seen exploding opposite our

forward units' positions east of Basra. Its pilot was seen bailing out over the enemy positions.

7. The criminal Khomeyniite regime continued to shell Basra, Khanaqin, Mandali, Ash-Shihabi, Zurbatiyah, and their suburbs with heavy artillery yesterday evening and today. The savage enemy shelling led to the martyrdom of two civilians, and to the wounding of two others in Basra; the wounding of two, the destruction of one house, and the damage of four others houses in Khanaqin; the destruction of four houses in Mandali; the destruction of six houses and the damage of three civilian cars in Ash-Shihabi; and the damage of several civilian establishments and properties in Zurbatiyah.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 February 1984

No 1,388 — 28 February

JN281123 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1105 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,388 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 28 February 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Great Iraqi people, staunch men of our Armed Forces and Popular Army; sons of the Arab nation everywhere. Within the framework of the enemy's frustrated attempts to commit aggression against our territory, the enemy, in a foolhardy and stupid operation, tried to push part of its forces through the Al-Huwayzah marshes in an attempt to take up positions in some villages in the area of the marshes and some areas on dry land on the western bank of the Al-Huwayzah marshes. The enemy imagined it could surprise the Armed Forces General Command and the field commands by proceeding along this unfrequented path to achieve its evil and expansionist designs. However, God was lying in wait for them and the zealous sons of Iraq stood true to history, their present, and their future. They fought the forces of aggression on this path with the required determination.

At first, the Armed Forces General Command and the field commands devoted their efforts to aborting the enemy's attempts through the path that posed the most serious threat. Thus, the attacking enemy force on the dry land east of Basra was destroyed. The enemy's plans from this direction failed. At the same time, the attacking force in the Al-Huwayzah marshes which was under close surveillance, was prevented from spreading, in preparation for launching a counteroffensive to purge the edges of the marshes from the invaders' spoliation.

The zealous sons in the operational sector east of the Tigris, excelled in a most complicated military operation. Despite the fierce battles that have raged during the past 3 days, they produced brilliant results.

Adhering to the staunchness and determination of the Iraqis and their deep faith, the people participated with the Armed Forces and the Popular Army in delaying the enemy's operations, attacking its forces, and pursuing its scared remnants. God has

willed that the enemy shall be humiliated and that Iraq shall remain lofty, its history untarnished and Iraqi soil pure.

O great Iraqis, the enemy forces along this path were wiped out as well as the attacking forces along the other paths.

Thus, the fringes of the Al-Huwayzah marshes were purged from the spoliation of the covetous invaders who were swallowed up by its waves so that it may recount with pride and loftiness its story with the invaders of this century as has been the case of the Iraqis and the invaders throughout history.

The forces, comprising four infantry divisions which the enemy had pushed along this path were wiped out. Iraq's banner fluttered high on the last of their strongholds in the Al-Bayda' village today. God is great, victory to great Iraq and loftiness to the great Arab nation's sons; death, humiliation, and destruction to the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation. [Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 February 1984

Baghdad Azeri Carries Warning to Iranian Cities

*GF271606 Baghdad International Service in Azeri
1900 GMT 23 Feb 84*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: Khomeyni and his supporters, who are lovers of war and who have been [words indistinct], have failed to agree to end the fighting. In fact, after imposing the war on the Iraqi and Iranian peoples, they have continued their suspicious bloody moves, thus proving that they are the agents of Zionism and neocolonialism.

On 23 and 24 February, they put into effect their criminal actions. By so doing they proved to the world once again that they are warmongers and criminal elements. Through its official organs Iraq made disclosures several times that if the deceitful and criminal rulers in Tehran and Qom wish to determine the fate of the war on the 1,200-kilometer long border line between Iran and Iraq, then let them come with all their forces and unleash their final and hellish attack. Let them observe the final outcome of the war. However, they must not subject our cities and towns to artillery shelling and air raids. Otherwise, Iraq will be forced to retaliate in the same way.

Regrettably, they failed to heed our official warnings. Shamelessly they subjected our cities and towns like Basra, Khanaqin, Mandali, (Shandari), (Halabja), and (Derbendigan) to fire in a criminal way. Thus, we were forced to make an official warning regarding the destruction of 11 Iranian cities. However, we did not wish it to be so. Nevertheless, we appeal to the people of Abadan, Dezful, Ahvaz, Masjed Soleyman, Andimeshk, Beh-behan, Ilam, Bakhtaran, Bandar-e Khomeyni, and Ramhormoz. [as heard] We take into consideration their safety and direct their attention to the fact that the crazy, criminal, and repulsive rulers in Iran have never been concerned with their future and happiness. They will never be so. Therefore, in order to protect yourselves from our air raids and surface-to-surface missiles, leave these cities and towns temporarily. From the military point of view these cities and towns are regarded as the starting point

of the attacks organized by the Khomeyni supporters. We have been forced to subject these cities and towns to fire.

We state once again that if the Khomeyni supporters do not use these cities and towns to prepare for their onslaught and if they refrain from bombarding our cities and towns, then we shall have nothing to do with them. However, according to reports, the supporters of Khomeyni are preparing for their onslaught in these cities and towns. They are firing on our cities and towns with heavy artillery. Therefore, we shall bombard and destroy them with our aircraft, surface-to-surface missiles, and heavy artillery on the days and times we shall choose. We shall talk with the Khomeyni supporters, who [words indistinct] and do not heed any international law, in the language they understand.

Let them issue official statements with confidence over Tehran Radio to the effect that their artillery are pounding Basra, Mandali, and Khanaqin and destroying the homes of our fellow countrymen. Let them say that they are staining with blood our innocent youths and pregnant women. We have said it before and we are saying it now that the deceitful acts of the Khomeyni supporters will result in the destruction of the world of Iran. Henceforth, we shall use our formidable and destructive arms to destroy the cities of Iran.

INA Team Witnesses III Army Corps Operations

JN272035 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] East of Basra, 27 Feb (IAN) — The Iraqi Armed Forces' heroic III Army Corps has scored a splendid, heroic epic to be added to its record that abounds with epics at a time when this corps is facing the criminal Iranian regime's forces, which dream of desecrating the Iraqi lands, with high capability and crushing blows. The INA team accompanied the Shatt al-'Arab forces and the formations attached to them in a lightning attack they carried out today against the remnants of the Iranian regime opposite one of the heroic III Army Corps' formations east of Basra. The staff brigadier general, who is the commander of the Shatt al-'Arab forces said: Our brave forces, supported by the courageous pilots and the successful artillery, have managed to destroy the enemy concentrations in record time. He added: What has been achieved in this surprise assault confirms our fighters' deep belief in the soil of our sacred homeland and our noble principles. He also explained that the successful surprise attack has achieved positive results in an area of 30 square meters.

The staff brigadier general and commander of the Shatt al-'Arab forces ridiculed the Iranian regime's allegations that its forces have infiltrated long distances into our holy territories, explaining that the Iranian enemy always dreams of infiltrating into our territories and that its false statements are clear evidence of the extent of its losses in the second epic east of Basra at the hands of leader Saddam Husayn's soldiers. He also affirmed that the bodies of the enemy soldiers filled the battlefield today. This fact refutes the Iranian regime's false allegations, which are not characterized with any responsibility. The INA mission sighted our brave eagles over the enemy positions and concentrations this morning. It also attended the process of evacuating numerous Iranian POW's and various weapons.

Commander Reports on 27 Feb War Victories*JN271950 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Feb 84*

[Text] Maysan, 27 Feb (INA) — In a statement to the INA team in a forward position at the battlefield, the commander of the IV Army Corps' right flank stressed that our heroic forces dealt painful and destructive blows today to the enemy in the Corps' area of operation.

He added that our valiant forces launched an overall offensive on the enemy forces at dawn today, and managed before morning to wipe them all out, except for those who were captured, surrendered to the Iraqi forces, or took to their heels.

He indicated that the great number of dead, wounded, and POW's sustained by the enemy as well as the stockpiles of weapons left behind and the disgraceful escape from the battle prove the enemy's collapsing spirits and bad situation on all levels.

He invited all the Arab and foreign journalists and correspondents to visit the area and become acquainted with the size of the enemy losses, the victories being scored by our valiant forces, and the falsehood of the enemy claims.

He indicated that our brave forces taught the enemy an eloquent lesson in reply to its arrogance and bragging, and that this battle is a decisive one. He emphasized that the spirit of challenge expressed by our leader Saddam Husayn was embodied in the Iraqis' reply, which was equal to the event.

He said there is no room for bargaining over dignity, because the dignity of the Iraqi citizen and the homeland will remain above all considerations — regardless of all sacrifices and all reactions by the enemy. The enemy is encouraged by agents, particularly some Arabs who have exposed themselves as being dissociated from conscience, honor, and the nation's soil.

The commander renewed the fighters' pledge to President Saddam Husayn that they will remain faithful soldiers in defending the cherished soil of Iraq.

On the same level, the INA team accompanied our valiant Armed Forces early this morning in their sacred advance and complete destruction of the enemy forces which attacked the IV Army Corps' right flank. In the forward positions of the battlefield, the team witnessed the brave soldiers of President Saddam Husayn while launching daring and successful assaults with all weapons. It also witnessed the splendid backing which the valiant eagles of the fighter planes and the heroic knights of the helicopter gunships extended to the infantry and armor forces.

The team also saw the destruction inflicted on the defeated enemy remnants and their humiliated weapons. The enemy's dismembered bodies littered the battlefield, and the rest of the Iranian forces either fell into the hands of our forces or fled the death crematorium by running deep inside Iranian territory. Joy over our victory spread throughout the battlefield. The fighters raised their hands in triumph, and chanted songs greeting leader Saddam Husayn and the great Iraqi action that is represented by defying the enemy and breaking its arrogance. The INA team

also saw a large number of Iranian prisoners of war being evacuated to the rear.

'Hundreds' of Iranian Prisoners Captured 27 Feb*JN271608 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 27 Feb 84*

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA) — The INA correspondent in the IV Army Corps' sector has reported that the Iraqi Armed Forces captured hundreds of Khomeyni's soldiers and guards during today's battles on the Corps' front.

The correspondent added that these prisoners of war have been transported to the rear, and that the wounded have been given first aid.

Some of the Iranian POW's confirmed that the Iraqi forces inflicted massive losses on the aggressor Iranian forces during these battles.

The correspondent said that this number of prisoners is obvious proof of the Iraqi forces' victories, and refutes the Iranian regime's allegations that it scored victories in today's battles.

Forces 'Mopping Up' Al-Huwayzah Marshes*JN281121 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1044 GMT 28 Feb 84*

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA) — The INA military correspondent says the Iraqi forces this morning launched a large-scale offensive on groups of Iranians who infiltrated Al-Huwayzah marshes yesterday.

The correspondent confirms that Iraqi commandos backed by helicopters are now clearing the area of the remnants of these infiltrators.

The correspondent points out that large numbers of Iranians who hid in these marshes have surrendered to the Iraqi forces. The correspondent expects the Iraqi Armed Forces to finally mop up the marshes later today, because in some areas these infiltrators have actually been driven out and chased inside Iranian territory.

Iranian Penetration Crushed*JN281139 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 28 Feb 84*

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA) — Staff Major General Hisham Sabah Fakhri, commander of the "East of Tigris" operations, has confirmed that the Iranian forces in Al-Huwayzah marshes were crushed at 1230 today.

In a cable to President Saddam Husayn today, Maj Gen Fakhri said the Iranian forces in the marshes were completely annihilated, with the exception of those who surrendered to the Iraqi forces in the area.

Minister Says 30,000 Iranians Killed in 3 Days*JN281225 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 28 Feb 84*

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA) — Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Iraqi minister of culture and information, has stated that in the battles which took place in the Maysan operational sector during the past 3 days, the Iranian losses amounted to 30,000 killed.

The Iraqi minister told Arab and foreign press correspondents here today that the IV Army Corps units today inflicted a devastating defeat on the Iranian forces which earlier tried to infiltrate the area of the Al-Huwayzah marshes. He explained that commando units, Iraqi helicopters, elements from the Popular Army, and the citizens in the area participated in crushing the Iranian forces.

On Iraq's siege of the Iranian Khark Island, the Iraqi minister said that this decision is irrevocable. He warned that Iraqi aircraft and missiles will strike at every ship or oil tanker that approaches the area, regardless of their nationality.

Concluding his statement, the Iraqi minister reiterated that the Iraqi Armed Forces are capable of and prepared to wage battles against any Iranian force, irrespective of its size and location.

Following the meeting with the Iraqi minister, the Arab and foreign press correspondents, and the international television teams left for the area of operations east of the Tigris to view the huge losses that the Iranians sustained today.

Baghdad Radio Calls on Fighters To Crush Enemy*JN280933 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0905 GMT 28 Feb 84*

[Text] Heroes, the fighters of our valiant Army, crush the waves of black rancor, pursue their disarrayed remnants and ask them: Where to? You who are championing the banner of the prophets and divine messengers and are defending heavenly values, wipe out those who advocate wrong and charlatanism, the upholders of illusions and frustration. God will grant you victory, God is your support as he is the one who grants success and the one who grants blessings.

Radio Praises City of Basra's Steadfastness*JN281059 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0850 GMT 28 Feb 84*

[Unscheduled commentary]

[Text] More than 40 months have passed of the harsh war that was imposed by the Iranian regime on our Arab people in Iraq. For more than 40 months the Iraqis have stood fast in their customary manner. They are waging battles and challenging arrogance and evil intentions. Our Basra stands fast and its sun is diffusing good and bountiful offerings, proud of its victory over the ill-wind, protecting our Gulf and our Arabian Peninsula, and dissipating the dark clouds which seek to eclipse the brilliant sun from over this area, whose people have been and will continue to be genuine Arabs.

The Iraqi citizen is standing on the borders of our Basra more lofty and with greater dignity and pride, knowing only continuous offering which embodies the values, ethics, and nobleness in the full sense of the word. This Iraqi, who has a big heart and a live conscience defies the most ferocious and most ignorant men history has ever known. He is fighting the enemy of God and Islam, not to mention the nation's traitors who claim to be Arabs. He is shattering the arrogance of these killers and is burying the evil intentions they harbor against us, the Arabs.

Toward this Iraqi citizen who is irrigating the land with his pure blood as an offering to his Arab affiliation, the Arabs, regretably, are indifferent bystanders, or, and even more tragic, these Arabs adopt a biased stand and provide Iran with weapons and all kind of material and moral support. While remaining silent, these Arabs deplore the absence of unity and the nation's honor, vociferating day and night over the radio about regaining the usurped homeland and the occupied territories. They can only be repudiated by the Arabs and by Arabism, and they can only be strangers to all the Arab nation's just causes.

More than 40 months have passed while the rulers of the so-called Muslim neighbor Iran continue to pose threats to our nation and to menace our Arab people in the Gulf with punishment and calamities, which they concoct with their disoriented minds and their black hearts which harbor hatred to everything that is Arab and to every person who does not follow their course of hallucination, charlatanism, and superstition, the course of immolating idols.

We say once again: We have had more than enough of indifference and silence. We must be strong and faithful to our God, sovereignty, and Arabism. Life and existence only deal with strength as it is the road that leads to mankind's happiness. We can never live in dignity unless we stand together as brothers. The Arabs must support their brothers in Iraq who are irrigating Iraq's soil with their pure blood and with their hearts are defending the eastern flank of our great Arab homeland.

O Basra, Iraq's gateway, the refuge of the first Muslims, you who have always stood fast in the face of all the invasions, you will remain the symbol of civilization and a kind mother who who comes to the rescue of only strong and honest men who seek martyrdom and march to the tune of freedom, sacrifices, and offerings for the sake of great Iraq and the Arab nation.

We promise you that you will emerge from this epic with your head raised high, victorious and lofty, O Iraq's Basra. Blessed be the Arabs with the new epic. This is the second Al-Qadisiyah that will revive the Arabs' dignity.

Basra Voice of Masses Relay Heard Again

GF261826 [Editorial Report] The Basra relay of Baghdad's Voice of the Masses radio in Arabic was unheard on 24 and 25 February. The station was heard again by FBIS on 26 February on 693 khz with good reception and 909 khz with fair reception.

Iraq Invites Reporters To Visit Front*JN281231 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Feb 84*

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA) — The Ministry of Culture and Information today invited Arab and international news agency correspondents and television teams to visit the IV Army Corps' operational sector. The ministry called on these missions to acquaint themselves with the heavy losses the Iraqi Armed Forces inflicted on the Iranian Forces in the battles in the Maysan operational sector which began earlier today.

UN Adopts Communiques as Official Documents*JN280847 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 28 Feb 84*

[Text] United Nations, 28 Feb (INA) — The UN Secretariat last night distributed five letters sent by the Iraqi Government to the UN secretary general and which are considered official documents of the UN Security Council.

The five letters submitted by Dr Riyad al-Qaysi, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, comprise a letter by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, dated 21 February 1984 on the development of the war with Iran; Iraqi Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,378, issued on 20 February and dealing with the Iranian regime's suspension of the shelling of residential areas in Iraqi cities; the Iraq military spokesman's statement on 18 February stating that Iraq abides by its decision not to shell targets in Iranian territory as of 14 February; and the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique issued on 21 February regarding Iran's violation of its promise and its shelling of Iraqi cities. As for the fifth document, it is a report on the damages inflicted on Iraqi civilian targets by the Iranian regime's shelling during the period 14-23 February.

Ramadan, Delegation Depart for France 27 Feb*JN272016 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Feb 84*

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, left Baghdad for Paris today, heading a delegation on an official visit to France at the invitation of French Premier Pierre Mauroy.

In a statement to INA, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that his talks with the French officials aim at developing and expanding the Iraqi-French relations in various spheres. He said that relations between the countries expanded because of France's responsible stand on the aggressive war the Iranian regime imposed on Iraq. This stand embodies an independent and sound decision toward countries which defend their rights and destiny.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the economic and technical cooperation between Iraq and France has progressed, and that the governments of both countries are interested in developing this cooperation under all conditions.

The first deputy prime minister noted that the Iraqi-French committee will meet during the visit to discuss ways of expanding

joint cooperation in the economic and trade spheres, and increasing French companies' contributions to implementing Iraqi development projects.

The delegation accompanying Taha Yasin Ramadan is comprised of Qasim Ahmad Taqi, minister of oil; Muhammad Sa'id as-Sahhaf, Foreign Ministry under secretary; 'Abd al-Tawwab 'Abdallah Mullah Huwaysh, Industry and Minerals Ministry under secretary; and a number of heads of institutions.

Baghdad on Conflict in Iran's Leadership*NC241342 Baghdad in Persian to Iran 0600 GMT 24 Feb 84*

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear Iranian sisters and brothers, O people who are fed up with the warmongering of Khomeyni's antipopular regime; dear listeners: Supernumeraries is a famous and old word. But it is obvious how useless and futile supernumeraries are nowadays. It is obvious in the mechanized wars with lasers, computers, and precise weapons in the hands of militarists today, that supernumeraries cause great losses and disappoint warmongers.

Yes, dear listeners, the immoral and godless clergymen are confronting the roar of deathly arms and today's military tactics, the supersonic aircraft, and the powerful missiles by using supernumeraries. Actually it can be said that in this way the clergymen are playing with the lives of people, as otherwise it would be useless to build a mud wall to prevent a devastating flood. Today's wars depend on educated experts with experience in warfare and not on supernumeraries. In today's wars an experienced warrior with machine gun in hand can prevent an attack by 1,000 people and annihilate all of them. Then why should the godless clergymen be so indifferent to the lives of your youths and to killing Iranians? Can it be that among all the officers and military personnel there is no one who is aware of these facts? Is the clerical dictatorship so intense that an officer cannot tell clergymen the facts? Why should so many youths die uselessly? The conclusion is that it is a matter of preserving the clerical regime, the lifespan of which depends on the continuation of war and bloodshed.

Once again the marshes and fields east of Basra and al-'Amarah are covered with partially burned corpses. Attacks have been repulsed to such a great extent that Mohsen Reza'i as before, in a bid to cover his disgraceful defeat, resorts to bombastic words trying to deceive the people. But it is too late. Foreign correspondents themselves now witness the heartrending scenes of rotting corpses and vanquished weapons piling up, and they are filming scenes of the defeat of Khomeyni's deceived forces. Deceitfully propounding the word "Khaybar," Reza'i tries to cover up his disgraceful defeat. If Reza'i actually wanted to save himself from this disgrace and avoid being annihilated by the families of the deceived dead, then he should immediately take a plane to his masters in Israel. Otherwise we do not think he will be able to save his skin in the next couple of days.

It is odd that this time, instead of Sayyad Shirazi and Zahirnezhad, Mohsen Reza'i is the one to issue messages. Is this perhaps because the strugglers of true Islam have settled their accounts with these two, or is it because the conflict between the leaders has reached such a point that each has formed a government of his own and a true feudal system has started?

In short, the calamity-stricken families are aware of the truth in what we say and whoever is mourning a dear one should no longer be deceived by empty phrases. These people have with divine succor been deceiving the Iranians for 3 years now. If divine succor is in the form of repeated defeats and thousands of rotting corpses, then lucky is the person who does not have such succor.

But it should be known that God is not a naive Iranian who is deceived by the clergymen. Divine succor is for good deeds and for helping Islam and not for attacking the houses of Muslims, killing Muslim brothers, and helping colonialism.

We congratulate Ruhollah on this new defeat and we ask that he be given a copy of the films on the war scenes, shown on Baghdad television so that his inauspicious eyes can see the heartrending scenes.

If you hide these scenes from him, you will be committing treason against him, because he enjoys watching such scenes.

Materials on Yasir 'Arafat's Activities

Husayn-'Arafat Private Meeting

JN271450 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT
27 Feb 84

[Text] Amman, 27 Feb (PETRA) — The Jordanian and Palestinian sides resumed their talks at noon today when His Majesty King Husayn and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held a closed meeting at An-Nadwah Palace. 'Arafat then had lunch with his majesty the king.

The Jordanian and Palestinian sides will hold an expanded meeting at 1800 today.

'Arafat Meets 'Ubaydat

JN271251 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT
27 Feb 84

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met for some time at noon today with Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat at the prime ministry.

'Ubaydat, 'Arafat Resume Meeting

JN271906 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT
27 Feb 84

[Text] The Jordanian-Palestinian talks were resumed at the prime minister's office this evening. Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat led the Jordanian side, and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat led the Palestinian side. The atmosphere of brotherhood and complete frankness which characterized yesterday's talks prevailed in the talks.

The discussions focused on the principle of asserting the independent Palestinian decisionmaking and on strengthening the PLO's legitimacy. The talks also focused on a unified position capable of dealing with the facts of the current situation and on defining the dimensions of the joint march. They also focused on carefully studying the situation in the occupied territories and on finding effective means of supporting their steadfastness and foiling the enemy's plans.

Attending on the Jordanian side were Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, Information Minister Layla Sharaf, and Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Shawkat Mahmud. Attending on the Palestinian side were PLO Executive Committee members Hamid Abu Sittah and Mahmud 'Abbas, 'Arafat's political adviser Hani al-Hasan, and PLO Executive Committee representative in Jordan 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya.

The talks are still going on and will be resumed tomorrow.

'Arafat Receives Visitors

JN271032 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir

'Arafat received at the Guest Palace Ibrahim Abu 'Ayyash, the new president of the Jordanian Engineers Association.

He also received a number of PNC members and representatives of Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan.

'Arafat Receives Palestinian Delegations

JN271307 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT
27 Feb 84

[Text] Amman — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat received at his residence in Amman this morning delegations representing the Palestinian refugee camps and groups in Jordan. The delegations asserted the inevitability of Jordanian-Palestinian cohesion and condemned the Israeli occupation authorities' continuous attempts to Judaize the occupied Arab territory and the Syrian attempts against the PLO's legitimacy.

Shawkat Mahmud, minister of the occupied territories, and Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, also attended the meeting.

'Arafat Meets PNC Members

JN272206 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT
27 Feb 84

[Text] Amman — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met at his place of residence this evening with the PNC members living in Jordan and with a number of Palestinian figures. During the meeting, 'Arafat reviewed the political situation in the Palestinian arena in light of the Tripoli incidents in northern Lebanon, his visit to Cairo, The Casablanca Islamic summit, and the current Jordanian-Palestinian talks. An open dialogue was held on all topics of discussion.

The PNC members affirmed their deep faith in the need to maintain Palestinian legitimacy and to strengthen Palestinian national unity. They also stressed the need to discuss the various viewpoints of Palestinian groups within the PLO's legitimate frameworks.

Furthermore, the PNC members stressed the need for Palestinian-Jordanian cohesion, and for concentrating efforts to bolster the steadfastness of the kinfolk in the occupied territories and to resist all Zionist policies. These policies aim at ending the Palestine question and liquidating the Palestinian people's cause.

Palestinian Delegation Spokesman

JN271217 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — It has been learned that Hani al-Hasan, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, will assume the role of official spokesman for the Palestinian delegation during the Jordanian-Palestinian talks.

Al-Hasan on Relations

JN271239 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Feb 84 pp 1, 19

[Text] Amman — Hani al-Hasan, Political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has declared that the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue during past years has made big strides toward building a firm base for relations between Jordan and the PLO.

Commenting on Yasir 'Arafat's current visit to Jordan and the talks he is to hold with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials, Al-Hasan said that without doubt this base will contribute to the success of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks. These talks are aimed at establishing the bases for future joint moves and actions on all levels, particularly in opposing the Zionist plans to evict the Palestinians and empty the West Bank and the Gaza Strip of their inhabitants.

He added that the occupation authorities are racing with time to implement their aggressive plans on our land and against our people.

He warned against what the Zionist authorities are doing and indicated that they resort to fabricating differences and conflicts among the Arabs which helps them to silently carry out their objectives in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the shadow of Arab apathy toward events in Palestine in terms of projects to Judaize the Arab land.

As for differences in the Palestinian arena at present, Al-Hasan said that these differences are not a source of worry to us because differences of opinion are natural and are part of the democratic practices that have characterized Palestinian activity from the beginning.

Al-Hasan stressed that these differences will not last long and that they did not concern the future of the PLO.

On the latest developments in relations with Syria, Al-Hasan said that there was no noticeable new development at present.

He pointed out that Faruq Qaddumi, head of the Political Department of the PLO, should have arrived on the same plane as 'Arafat but he fell ill and postponed joining the delegation accompanying 'Arafat.

Radio Urges Joint Action

JN271803 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Feb 84

"Today's Talk"]

[Text] The meeting that the Palestinians and Jordanians have been awaiting for a long time has begun between His Majesty King Husayn and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The Jordanian-Palestinian meeting is aimed at regulating relations between the two sides in various fields and on various levels because the uniqueness of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship certainly has many aspects that will

affect the two peoples' daily lives as well as future plans. Salvaging the kinfolk and the land are among these aspects which should be coordinated, because it is the pressing primary issue in our everyday life and one that affects the development of our pan-Arab and cultural existence as well as our future.

Proceeding from this noble objective, the Husayn-'Arafat talks will center on creating the best formula for relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian people and on drawing up a joint base for any move in the Arab and international arenas. As complete openness and frankness have prevailed in the Jordanian-Palestinian summit since the talks began yesterday, we hope the two leaders will succeed in reaching a comprehensive assessment of both the Arab and international situations and the circumstances through which the kinfolk in the occupied Arab territories are passing. We hope they will also draw up a practical formula for a joint political move to save the kinfolk and the land from the unjust Israeli occupation.

We should not view this meeting as capable of producing miracles in the twinkling of an eye. The Arab-Israeli conflict is a long and eventful one, and the international balance of power governs many moves and initiatives that are assiduously — but to no avail — seeking a satisfactory solution to the Palestinian question. Nevertheless, establishing a Jordanian-Palestinian understanding for joint action on the cause will spare a lot of time and effort, because that understanding will form a base for any action aimed at solving the problem and bringing about the desired peace in the Middle East. From this viewpoint, we pin great hope on Jordanian-Palestinian understanding at this stage in order to create a new base that can effectively deal with proposals and initiatives in a way that did not exist in the past.

Hence, we view the Husayn-'Arafat meeting as a first step in the right direction. We hope that the steps of the joint action will be accelerated in order to realize the aspired objective represented by liberating the land, saving the kinfolk, and bringing about peace in this holy land.

27 Feb AR-RA'Y Editorial

JN271855 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Feb 84 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "The Responsibility of Joint Confrontation"]

[Text] It is difficult to describe PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in Amman and his talks with His Majesty King Husayn and Jordanian officials as a new beginning. Rather, it is a continuation of the talks that were suspended 10 months ago. During this period, contacts and exchanges of views between Jordan and the PLO continued.

If some are talking about the distinctiveness of Jordanian-Palestinian relations or about the two peoples' unity and its unique and deep characteristics, we Jordanians and Palestinians are using this distinctiveness and these characteristics under the umbrella of mutual hopes and suffering. Furthermore, we have common aspirations and objectives.

The Zionist threat to the Arab character of the occupied territories and to the identity of their inhabitants equally affects all that is Jordanian and Palestinian in terms of dangers and catastrophes. From this premise, a number of facts that must constitute the framework for continuing the discussions between Jordan and the PLO should be stressed. These facts have been the framework of Jordanian moves and trends since the Zionist occupation. The importance of these facts has been emphasized with the escalation of the Zionist settlement program.

The first fact: Concrete steps, and not merely clarity of vision, are what is urgently required at this stage. Jordan and the PLO are the Arabs who are the most aware of the dangers of the Zionist plan and of the extent of the enemy's exploitation of the time factor. They also realize the Arab opposition's weakness in facing the settlement and Judaization plans.

The second fact: The historical partnership, deepened by mutual pain, suffering, and threats, necessitates that this be a partnership in action. Jordan is not seeking a mandate from the PLO, and will not agree to become a substitute for the PLO. It still adheres to its faithfully practiced role of recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

The third fact: The state of Arab fragmentation and the current intentional relinquishing of pan-Arab commitments by many sides make it incumbent on all sincere sides to make all possible moves in the right direction in order to hinder the Zionist schemes and prevent the Zionists from realizing their aims. It is the duty of these sincere sides to work in every sound direction, employ all that is presented to them, and support all of the political efforts with the aim of preserving the Arab identity of the land and preventing its inhabitants from being uprooted.

We should point out that we do not view Yasir 'Arafat's visit to our country as an event, because this man has come to visit his kinfolk and will stay among the members of his unified family. However, we, both in Jordan and the occupied territories, pin great hopes on this visit and on every Jordanian-PLO meeting. Let us hope that together we will succeed in placing an obstacle on the path of the Zionist wagon, and hence remove other obstacles until we receive deliverance and until the usurped land regains its identity. We will then have the honor of having worked to deliver our people from their immense, long suffering. This is a great task indeed.

28 Feb Press Comment

JN280953 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT
28 Feb 84

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Objective Dialogue," *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says: Regardless of what has been said about the calm that prevails over the central issue, the Palestine question, which is the crux of the Middle East crisis? And regardless of what has been said about the Lebanese crisis and the attention focused on the occupation and its consequences, the Israeli measures in the occupied territories and the various forms of our kinfolk's resis-

tance there will continue to be the alarm bell that alerts all the Arab sides, particularly the PLO and Jordan, to the fact that while others may believe that the Palestine question is in a state of calm, the Jordanians and Palestinians, out of our practical experience with the aggression and aggressors, believe that this calm may pave the way for a storm, which all facts confirm will blow sooner or later. Because we are the target for any conflict in view of our geographical location, pan-Arab affiliation, and inevitable position, we cannot continue to be indifferent or live on dreams which do not truly represent reality or our experience. Therefore, we must act to save our stand and confront the new developments. Moreover, Palestinian-Jordanian coordination is required to create a proper climate so we can play an effective role in reuniting the Arab world and adhere to its major issue.

There was a time, during the Begin and Sharon era, when the enemy had hoped to impose the Camp David accords on the Arabs by force. The enemy invaded Lebanon in an attempt to liquidate the PLO without concealing its intentions that Jordan would be its next target.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B adds: There was a time when the Israeli leaders' daily statements called for considering the Israelis as Palestinians [as heard], the Palestinian Arab land as Israeli territory, and the Jordanian state as being responsible for the continuation of the state of war with Israel. If certain circumstances necessitate that these voices observe silence, then this does not mean that Israel has relinquished its hostile policy, or that its viewpoint on the Palestinian-Jordanian confrontation has changed. Israel is only waiting for the most suitable opportunity. Thus, we as leaders and peoples must be aware of our historical responsibility. We also must take action in all fields that will enable us to assume these responsibilities.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: The formula that has organized the daily relationship between the sons of the Jordanian family — Jordanians and Palestinians — has been polished by experience and refined by days during the hot confrontation with the enemy. What is required today is to reach a future formula that will enable us as Jordanians and Palestinians to confront all possible developments on all levels. We hope this formula will be a suitable reply to the enemy's daily actions in our occupied homeland.

Under the headline "No Alternative to the Agreement," *AD-DUSTUR* says: With the continuation of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue in a climate of mutual concern and confidence, the arrival of the popular delegations in Amman from the occupied West Bank to express the support and blessings of the overwhelming majority of our steadfast kinfolk and brothers for the 'Arafat-Husayn talks gives special significance to this dialogue and its aspired objectives. The voice of the occupied territory, which expresses the sincerest popular feelings, coming at this particular time, constitutes an emphatic response to all those who put themselves in the service of other than the Palestinian people's will — a will that suffered from the occupation's tyranny and coercion and a will which stems from the pain of the land that is being Judaized, the sanctities that are being exposed to all forms of violation, and the human beings who are under the occupier's tyranny and arbitrary measures.

AD-DUSTUR says: This wide referendum from the occupied territory, calling for the need to reach a Jordanian-Palestinian formula to put an end to the current frustration and stressing the inevitability of reaching a formula that would stop the continued deterioration, doubles the responsibility of the dialogue being held in Amman. More specifically, there is no alternative to the dialogue and to an agreement in the interest of the cause.

We must admit that mere good intentions do not constitute an agreement or an objective alternative to a complicated situation that is affected by various pressures and burdened by direct realities. The most important of these realities are the state of fragmentation of the pan-Arab entity and the continuous Arab retreat on all levels to a point where this nation is unable to hold a summit at the set time. The dark climate, the heavy burdens on our shoulders, and the continuous Arab bloodshed in more than one arena necessitate that we evaluate the situation as it is. Out of the belief in the inevitability of achieving victory and regaining all the usurped rights, we must entrench hope and redouble wise efforts and actions.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: The eyes of the Arabs and the world are looking at what is taking place in Amman these days, both the eyes of the biased who are waiting for the failure of the dialogue and the eyes of the sincere who wish the dialogue success, and we must strengthen our will to reach a frank and comprehensive agreement through which we can establish a supportive Arab stand that would eventually lead to a ray of light in the darkness of this long Arab night. Undoubtedly, the masses' concern and desire that are fraught with hope deserve that we achieve great action on the level of the great and positive expectations.

AR-RAY says: If we in Jordan realize the deep suffering of our kinfolk under occupation and the Zionist designs that are directly aimed against their land and identity, and if the brothers in the PLO agree with us on this realization, then it is natural that our awareness of the tragedy must be translated into serious action to confront and foil the designs that go far beyond Palestine and its kinfolk to reach Jordan and its citizens. In this forward position of the great Arab homeland, it is our destiny as Palestinians and Jordanians to have the honor of direct, fierce, and dear confrontation. Because such confrontation requires us to assume our responsibility without taking into consideration the ability and readiness of the other brothers to perform this duty, our task as one family must constitute the framework of any contact between Jordan and the PLO and the real criterion for everyone's readiness to assume his historical responsibilities.

The Zionist conspiracy now being implemented is the objective of the Zionist movement and the final objective of all the wars that have erupted in this region since 1948 through the invasion of Lebanon. Therefore, any Palestinian-Jordanian failure to assume this responsibility cannot be justified or excused.

AR-RAY adds: We are aware of the political stalemate in the region regarding the crux of the Middle East crisis. The recent U.S. announcement on freezing the mission of President Reagan's envoy to Lebanon proves that the U.S. Administration has begun to realize that the Palestinian question, and not the Lebanese crisis, is the crux of the Arab-Zionist conflict. The U.S.

Administration has also decided to freeze its political action during the presidential election which has begun in the United States. However, this or that does not absolve Jordan or the PLO of the responsibility to arrange their cards and achieve an agreement on the need and importance of joint action to defend the occupied territory's Arabism and protect the national identity of its kinfolk, given that this is the least that we can do for those who are suffering from the occupation, its actions, and serious objectives.

PLO Cadres Arrive in Amman To Visit Families

JN271047 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Feb 84 p 21

[Text] Amman — It has been learned that a number of PLO cadres and officers arrived in Amman last night to visit their families.

Several PLO administrators and financial officials also arrived in Amman so as to be close to Yasir 'Arafat during his talks with the Jordanian side.

Prince Hasan Addresses Symposium on Israel

JN251700 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has asserted that a just, permanent peace in the Middle East cannot be established without a just solution for the Palestinian problem. He said no solution can succeed without granting the Palestinian people their full right to determine their destiny on their Palestinian soil.

In a speech opening the international symposium on Israel and Arab waters, organized by Yarmuk University in cooperation with the Arab Studies Center in London and held at the Yarmuk University liaison office in Amman today, his highness said that the principle of self-determination includes the Palestinian people's right to use their human, water, and economic resources. These rights are an indivisible whole.

His highness reviewed the Israeli occupation authorities' settlement practices in the Arab territories, explaining the changes that these authorities want to make in the Arab territories. He said that since the beginning of this century, Zionist designs have been aimed at controlling the waters in the region — not only in Palestine but also in Jordan, southern Lebanon, and southern Syria — and exploiting these waters in order to settle Jewish immigrants in Palestine. He said Israel has been exerting its utmost to break the ties between the citizen and his land, to drive the Arabs from their land, and to empty the Arab areas of their Arab inhabitants in order to facilitate the Zionist settlement operations.

His highness said that Israel's policy toward water sources is closely linked to its expansionist settlement policy, which consequently affects stability and peace in the Middle East. He added: Israel's aspirations go beyond the sources that it controls and exploits.

Amman Suggests Arab League Agenda Topics

JN252108 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT
25 Feb 84

[Text] Tunis — The Government of Jordan has asked the Arab League General Secretariat to include a number of topics on the agenda of the Arab League Council, which will begin meeting in Tunis on 29 March. These topics include the aggressive Med-Dead Sea Canal project that the Zionist occupation authorities intend to carry out between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea, the Israeli plan to move the refugee camps in the occupied territories, the Knesset decision to extend Israeli law to the settlements and their inhabitants in the occupied West Bank, and the burning of the Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli.

Papal Nuncio to Jerusalem Appointed

JN251121 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — AR-RA'Y has learned that the papal mission in Jerusalem has informed the Foreign Ministry that his holiness the pope has appointed Bishop Carlo Curis as the papal nuncio in Jerusalem. The papal mission requested that this appointment be accredited by the Jordanian Government.

Beirut Says Envoy To Arrange Summit With Syria
NC280843 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT
 28 Feb 84

[Text] Attention is focused on the expected outcome of the Saudi efforts, which appear to have made long strides following the reports that a Lebanese-Syrian summit will be held over the weekend to discuss the situation in Lebanon, developments in the Middle East, the proposed political solutions to the Lebanese crisis, and relations between the two countries. An envoy is expected to go to Damascus in the next 24 hours to prepare for this summit and to put the final touches on the agenda.

Meanwhile, contacts are continuing among Beirut, Damascus, and Riyadh to create a suitable atmosphere for the success of the meeting, which will be followed by the second round of the National Dialogue Conference. However, opposition sources say the Lebanese-Syrian summit must be preceded by a Cabinet session at which the abrogation of the 17 May Lebanese-Israeli agreement will be declared. The Cabinet would then refer the agreement to the Chamber of Deputies for a decision.

Reports say reviving the outgoing Cabinet is under consideration.

Syrian Envoy Arrives in Beirut 27 February
NC271646 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT
 27 Feb 84

[Text] Within the framework of regional moves, 'Abdallah al-Amin, the assistant secretary general of the Syrian Ba'th Party, arrived in Beirut today. He has messages from Syrian officials for Nabih Birri, Khalid Junblatt, and Marwan Hamadah.

Walid Jublart meet with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam last night.

RFL: Syrian-Lebanese Summit To Be Held Soon
NC271737 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
 1645 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] According to information from diplomatic sources, a Lebanese-Syrian summit meeting will be held soon. The meeting was arranged by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia through his brother Crown Prince 'Abdallah and with the assistance of Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, the Saudi ambassador in Washington who, the sources say, will participate in the summit if it is held in Riyadh and not in Damascus, as scheduled in principle. Al-Hariri postponed his arrival in Beirut because King Fahd summoned him for a meeting which was described as important.

The diplomatic sources added that the Lebanese and Syrian presidents will draw up principles and details of the political solution to the Lebanese crisis and a solution to the 17 May agreement issue. They will also draw up security arrangements similar to those worked out in the Golan agreement concluded between Syria and Israel. Saudi Arabia will also arrange, with the agreement of the Lebanese and Syrian sides, the question of the withdrawal of the Syrian forces in stages without concurrence or linkage with the Israeli presence or withdrawal.

The diplomatic sources added that Lebanon, at the same time, will abrogate the Cairo agreement.

Al-Jumayyil To Cancel Accord 'Within 48 Hours'
NC281033 Paris AFP in English 1016 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Beirut, Feb 28 (AFP) — As fighting continued in Beirut and the mountains, authoritative sources said President al-Jumayyil would officially abrogate Lebanon's nine-month old agreement with Israel on security and troop withdrawals within 48 hours. Other sources close to the Shia Moslem opposition movement, Amal, said President al-Jumayyil was first awaiting the outcome of a vote in the United Nations Security Council on the dispatch of United Nations troops to Lebanon.

Once the agreement is abrogated, a summit between President al-Jumayyil and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad would be organized in Damascus to seal the reconciliation between the two countries, both sources close to the government and in the opposition said today.

Lebanon's internal problems would be tackled after the Damascus meeting, in talks between the Al-Jumayyil government and opposition leaders. Sources said Syria would have no part in these talks, although sections of the opposition have relied on Syrian support.

If agreement is reached on reforms, a government of national union would be set up.

Speaker: Chamber Cannot Abrogate 17 May Agreement
NC271704 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
 1545 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Kamil al-As'ad, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, has affirmed that the 17 May agreement is not a regular law that can be referred back to the Chamber of Deputies for reconfirmation or withdrawal of its support. He stressed that the government is the one responsible for (?ratification), abrogation, or suspension of the agreement.

Speaking at a meeting of the Independent Parliamentary Bloc, Speaker al-As'ad called on the government to exert serious efforts at the UN Security Council to secure approval for the deployment of the UN forces everywhere in Lebanon.

Al-Wazzan Reaffirms Need for New Government
NC271828 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT
 27 Feb 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan denied tonight the news reiterated about floating [ta'wim] the present government. He emphasized that this has not been brought up at all. Al-Wazzan renewed his demand for the formation of a new government to shoulder full responsibility under the current circumstances through which the country is passing. He reaffirmed that he does not want to continue to manage affairs for long.

Army Takes Over Marine Positions at Airport

NC280630 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0550 GMT
28 Feb 84

[Text] There is no change in the tense security situation. Artillery and rocket exchanges have continued along the traditional battle axes in the mountain, in Beirut's southern suburb, and along the contact lines in Beirut. Sporadic shelling is heard along these lines. Shells fell indiscriminately on residential quarters in Beirut, causing casualties. Shells also fell near the Presidential Palace. U.S. warships did not intervene against the artillery positions in the mountain as they did in the last few days. It was reported that efforts are being made to deploy a French force between Qasqas and Ra's an-Nab' in the Beirut area.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Army is being deployed in positions vacated by the Marines in the airport area.

A convoy carrying equipment for the 6th Brigade in West Beirut has crossed the Museum crossing point in East Beirut.

Franjiyah, Karami Receive Al-Asad Messages

NC271945 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic
to Lebanon 1900 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] [Former] President Sulayman Franjiyah and [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami today received two messages from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The messages were conveyed by Dr Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali, director of the Syrian foreign minister's office.

Following the meeting with President al-Asad's envoy, Karami said they discussed current developments. Commenting on the withdrawal of the Multinational Force, Karami said: This withdrawal is not a trivial matter. However, it is deplorable that the ships bade us farewell with their shells.

Karami said the 17 May agreement was stillborn. At any rate, he added, we thank God for the march launched by the valiant national resistance, the heroic acts of which made all the enemies aware of its role and its importance.

AFP: Islamic Jihad Issues Ultimatum to French

NC281025 Paris AFP in English 1010 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Beirut, Feb 28 (AFP) — The extremist Islamic Jihad group, believed to be pro-Iranian, today gave French troops in Lebanon a week to leave or face the consequences. A caller, claiming to belong to Islamic Jihad, telephoned the AFP office in Beirut saying: "A earthquake took place beneath the feet of the United States in Lebanon. Now only the French are left in our homeland. We hereby give them one week to leave our country".

Last year, Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for three spectacular suicide truck bomb attacks in which some 350 U.S., French and Israeli troops were killed.

Junblatt Denies Changing Views on Accord

NC271645 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic
to Lebanon 1600 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], today denied that during his meeting with Johnny 'Abduh, Lebanon's ambassador to Switzerland, he said he is ready to withdraw his call for Al-Jumayyil's resignation if the latter abrogates the 17 May agreement. Junblatt reiterated his constant and known position that there will be no solution, settlement, or reconciliation with the Phalange Party regime following its crimes against the Lebanese.

Franjiyah on 17 May Agreement Abrogation

NC261537 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic
1130 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] [Former] President Sulayman Franjiyah has stated that the only question he discussed with President Amin al-Jumayyil during their recent meeting was the cancellation of the 17 May agreement. Everything would be easy after this cancellation, he added.

Franjiyah further said: It did not appear to me that his excellency opposes the cancellation of the agreement. However, Franjiyah said, I repeat what President al-Jumayyil said: The agreement is now in the freezer. This agreement is like a corpse placed in the morgue until it is time to bury it.

Franjiyah went on: This comparison is very apt. However, there are still cannibals in the world who eat human flesh. Who knows if this corpse will not be brought out of the refrigerator to be eaten and not to be buried?

Franjiyah said this in an interview with the Lebanese newspaper *AL-LIWA* which will be published tomorrow, Monday. In this interview, *AL-LIWA* posed questions about various basic issues. One question reads: We have learned, Your Excellency, that you have advised President al-Jumayyil to write a document including the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. This document would be placed in your trust and in the trust of President al-Asad.

Franjiyah answered: If he has decided to convene a second Geneva meeting, then this document is necessary. But if the purpose of the second Geneva meeting is only for diversion, then this document is unnecessary. He expressed his belief that if the agreement is not abrogated, then the situation would go from bad to worse.

The *AL-LIWA* team asked Franjiyah: If the question of President al-Jumayyil's resignation is raised, would you support this proposal?

Franjiyah answered: Never, never, and not because he is Amin al-Jumayyil. I would say the same to any president, whoever he may be. It would be dangerous if this door were opened. Let us wait at least until God sends us another President like Al-Asad. Is it possible to find another president like Al-Asad?

Franjiyah was asked: Do you believe that Christian public opinion in Kisrawan and Jabal Lubnan follows the game of cantons and partition?

Franjiyah answered: They are compelled to do so. This plan is imposed upon them. However, if you let them choose for themselves, the sons of Kisrawan and Jubayl would be the first to execute those who demand cantons and partition. They would send them to the scaffolds if they had freedom of action.

We will broadcast the full text of this press interview directly after the 0900 newscast.

PSP Leaders, Birri Meet on Possible Initiatives

NC271458 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Former Ministers Marwan Hamadath and Khalid Junblatt and Muhsin Dallul, Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] Deputy chairman, have met with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri to discuss the political situation in light of the information available about certain initiatives that may be put forward within the coming hours or days. The meeting was attended by 'Abdallah al-Amin, the regional secretary assistant of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party organization.

The Amal Movement leader and the PSP leadership in Beirut had earlier received a detailed message from Walid Junblatt expounding his opinion on the recent developments.

Marawan Hamadah received the UK ambassador to Lebanon at the residence of the PSP leader. The ambassador was inquiring about conditions pertaining to the French plan for dispatching an international force to Beirut.

Afterward, Hamadah and Salman received Deputies Melkon Ebligatyan and Souren Khanamiryan and members of the Tashnag Party's Command Council, who handed them a message for Walid Junblatt. This meeting was also an occasion for exchanging views on the political situation.

Malik Salam, Qulaylat Comment on Talks

NC281033 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Former minister Malik Salam, Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat, and a delegation of the movement's command including Nuhad Urfali, Dr Hashim al-Ayyubi, Fu'ad Hasan, and engineer Nabil Shihab held a meeting at Malik Salam's residence. After the meeting, Malik Salam stated: Our meeting with Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat and brothers of the command of the Independent Nasirite Movement—Al-Murabitun was constructive. We discussed various aspects of our Islamic and national situations. We also discussed the situation along Beirut's contact lines and in Ra's an-Nab', as well as the positive presence of the Al-Murabitun men there and their current successful efforts to spare this area of Beirut further losses in life and material damage.

We agreed with Brother Qulaylat to follow up these national meetings with other brothers who share our desire to bring about our national aspirations.

Brother Qulaylat said: We are holding meetings and consultations to coordinate our views within the framework of a joint and unified national Islamic and Christian formula to administer the affairs of the present fateful phase in all political, security, and social fields. By its upsurge and its own role, Beirut constitutes a focal point for achieving Lebanon's territorial integrity and national unity and for building a democratic state in Lebanon in which political and social justice for all communities will prevail.

PSP Official Denies Differences with Amal Leader

GF261436 Doha QNA in Arabic 0835 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Dubayy, 26 Feb (QNA) — Prince Tariq Shahab, deputy leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], has denied there are any differences between Amal leader Nabih Birri and PSP leader Walid Junblatt.

In a statement published in the newspaper *AL-BAYAN* here today, he said that to demand the resignation of Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil means to demand the end of rule by the Phalange, which assumed power by the force of the Israeli tanks and thus created an imbalance between the various groups in Lebanon.

He said that the Phalange Party refuses to live with others, even with other Christians, while committing massacres against Muslims, which prove its sectarian fanaticism.

He said: We believe the only way to preserve real national unity in Lebanon is to institute radical reforms of the Lebanese political system, foremost of which is ending sectarianism in all fields, particularly the political one.

Prince Tariq Shahab affirmed the concern of the Lebanese National Salvation Front to firmly resist against any plan to divide the country and to work for Lebanon's unity.

PSP Reiterates 'Moral Support' for Al-Matn

NC271743 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1600 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] There have been reports about a state of public mobilization having been declared across most of the villages in northern Al-Matn and a buildup of the Phalangist gangs and the ruling family's army in the same area aimed at confronting the patriots.

Following these reports, the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] reiterates its support for the patriots in Btighrin and Duhur ash-Shuwayr who are confronting the fascist forces and the designs of hegemony and domination. A PSP spokesman has reiterated the moral support of the PSP for all those who are holding out in patriotic Al-Matn, and it salutes all the fighters.

Amal Reportedly Captures 15 Israelis in South

NC251550 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic
1530 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] An Amal Movement source has stated that movement forces captured 15 Israeli soldiers during the attack on the town of Ma'arakah in the south.

The source said that efforts will be made to exchange the captives for detainees held by the occupation forces.

Mufti Khalid Says Sunnis Belong to Opposition

NC271343 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic
to Lebanon 1230 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Mufti of the Republic Hasan Khalid has called for the solidarity of Muslims and patriots in the face of the plot. He emphasized that the Sunni Muslims belong to the opposition and that they are anxious to preserve Arab unity and Lebanon's sovereignty. The Muslims' primary duty, he said, is to be in the frontline of the patriotic action and to reject division and fragmentation.

The Mufti added: The regime has ignored our warnings against harming the dignity of the mountain, striking at Beirut's southern suburb, and disrupting the situation in Beirut.

Mufti Khalid today received former Minister Malik Salam, met with Dr Nasim al-Barbir, and received a phone call from [former] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss. He also received several popular delegations.

VOL: PFLP-GC Supplying Druze Fighters

NC280703 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT
28 Feb 84

[Text] Our Al-Biqa' correspondent says the PFLP-GC brought large quantities of arms and ammunition to the Junblatt positions over the past few days. The PFLP-GC used Syrian trucks, which drove through 'Usayyah, Kafr Zabad, Dayr Zannun, Shtawrah, and Dahr al-Badar.

RFL Questions Legitimacy of Beirut Radio, TV

NC252248 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1645 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Several astonishing questions have been raised about the official media, which are supposed to be legitimate. The questions are: How can As-Sana'i' radio from Beirut be Lebanon's official radio while it is operating under the supervision of those who deviated from the legitimate authority, such as the Amal Movement and Junblatt's men? In its programs and newscasts, the radio adopts positions clearly favoring the Amal and Junblatt's men, their domestic and foreign policy, and their views on events and developments. International news agencies continue to carry reports citing the As-Sana'i' radio, regarding it as the official radio representing the legitimate Lebanese state. Why is the official radio being exploited by the opposition and by a specific sect of the Lebanese? Why does the state not cut off the transmission from 'Amshit and set up a radio to speak for it, or at least a radio that does not favor one Lebanese faction and that speaks for the legitimate Lebanese authorities?

Concerning the television, how can the television service, which originally reflected the official view, be divided? Why does Channel 5 report on events and developments as a distant observer unrelated to what is happening while reports on Channel 7 are chosen, prepared, and edited from a specific political viewpoint? These reports promote a specific question. The least that can be said about them is that they reflect the opposition's views and favor one Lebanese sect.

What is astonishing is that the official media have been fragmented in this way and do not reflect any real Lebanese cause.

VOL: Committee Formed To Supervise Beirut Radio

NC241613 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT
24 Feb 84

[Text] Sources say that a committee consisting of Information Ministry officials has been formed to supervise the policy and programs of the official [Beirut] radio. The committee also includes representatives of the Socialists and the Amal Movement. The committee has reviewed ways to guarantee the radio's continued adherence to the official line.

Commentary Views Lebanon's Future, Urges Unity*JN271542 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT
27 Feb 84*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: After the utter failure of the U.S. policy in Lebanon and the fall of the policy aimed at taming the Lebanese people by the force of the U.S. Marines, warships, and planes; after the majority of the Lebanese people rejected the 17 May agreement; and after its real, political, and historical collapse, some Lebanese circles wonder if this is a riddle that cannot be solved and an obstacle that cannot be overcome. The question is: What kind of Lebanon is required for the future? In other words: Where is Lebanon going?

Some people who supported the 17 May agreement applauded the formula of the victor and vanquished, and sought support from the Israeli occupation, and the U.S. military interference added some options to this question — including the real division, the military division, the field division, the cantons, the decentralization, the factional petty, state, and other options that arouse despair in the hearts of the Lebanese people. It is as if Lebanon were created to become a field of international conflict, of Arab differences, of Arab-Israeli contradictions, and of religious and factional differences.

All of these gloomy questions, proposals, and options cannot change the will of the Lebanese masses — with their various trends, affiliations, and religions — to achieve the unity of the Lebanese territory, people, and institutions. Such a Lebanon will guarantee justice and equality for all people; will take from every Lebanese person what that person can give to the homeland; and will give every individual a guarantee for the future, the security of coexistence, the benefits of common interests, and the components of their entity's existence and position in its surrounding and with its affiliation.

An independent, sovereign, and Arab Lebanon — the Lebanon of coexistence, equality, and justice — is the Lebanon of the future. This Lebanon is the only option for the Lebanese masses and for every Lebanese nationalist supported by Syria and the Arab masses. He who trusts the people cannot present gloomy options, the best of which are division, subservience, and fragmentation.

The Lebanese people are interested in Lebanon recovering, regaining its independence and complete sovereignty, and resuming its role in its Arab surroundings as a positive and effective factor, one that cannot allow imperialism and Zionism to use its territory either as a base or as a corridor to Syria and the rest of the Arab countries.

The future of Lebanon lies in the hands of the Lebanese people, and the solution to their problems and difficulties is also in their hands. Just as developments in Lebanon showed that the formula of the victor and the vanquished cannot be imposed on the Lebanese people, these developments also proved that the Lebanese people will reject any similar formula as well as any attempt by foreign factors to support any Lebanese party against the other parties. Developments have also shown that betting on the

Israeli option and the Israeli option itself are not just doomed to failure; for the Lebanese people, they represent civil war, destruction, blood, and a real threat to the foundations and independence of Lebanon.

Lebanon is not subject to local, regional, or international bargaining and bidding; it is not for sale, or division, or fragmentation. After the failure of the U.S. and Israeli option; after the failure of the policy of suppression and force and the formula of the victor and vanquished; and with the will of its sons, Lebanon will be able to recover and to regain its independence, unity, role, and Arabism.

PSP Official Cited on 'Defeated' U.S. Policy*JN242030 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT
24 Feb 84*

[Text] Muhsin Dallul, deputy leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], has stated that the U.S.-Israeli threats against Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces are no more than bubbles in the air. The Israeli-U.S. alliance has tried all kinds of weapons and all forms of plots but failed because the determination to remain steadfast is stronger than all its weapons, battleships, and planes. In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Dallul said that Reagan's adventurous policy is a failing, defeated policy. Those who pinned their hopes on the U.S.-Israeli solution must retract their positions which the Lebanese people and fraternal Syria have rejected.

Damascus Cites Opposition to 'Arafat Jordan Visit**Al-'Asifah Cited***JN280658 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT
28 Feb 84*

[Text] The Al-'Asifah Forces General Command has denounced the visit that Yasir 'Arafat and his cadres are paying to the Jordanian regime in the wake of the stage of contacts with the U.S. Administration. In a statement yesterday, the official spokesman for the Fatah Movement-Revolutionary Council stressed that Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn seek to cover up their conspiracy against the Palestinian cause under the pretext that there is a close relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian people.

The official spokesman explained that developments have shown that 'Arafat's command had committed itself in advance to liquidate the Palestinian cause. He added: These contacts are taking place at this stage to establish a reactionary axis whose mission is to undermine and contain the victories that were achieved by the revolution forces in the Lebanese arena.

The spokesman also referred to 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and to King Husayn's visit to Washington. He said: This has put 'Arafat and those who surround him in a position which is hostile to the basic national and militant values.

Concluding his statement, the Fatah official spokesman called on the Palestinian revolution and Arab forces to confront the

U.S.-Zionist conspiracy directed against the Syrian-Palestinian-Arab existence. He also praised the steadfastness of the Palestinian, Syria, and the Lebanese people as well as the revolution forces in the Jordanian arena and stressed the need for them to obstruct the conspiratorial scheme being prepared by Husayn and 'Arafat.

Fatah Spokesman Cited

*JN262210 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT
26 Feb 84*

[Text] The Palestinian resistance factions today strongly denounced 'Arafat's current visit to the Jordanian regime and the resumption of his talks with King Husayn. The Palestinian resistance said that this visit comes within the deviationist, rightist political trend that reached its climax in 'Arafat's visit to Cairo. In a statement today, the official spokesman of the Palestine National Liberation Movement-Fatah said that 'Arafat is embarking on such moves after the Palestinian revolution factions have stripped him of the legitimacy to speak in the name of the PLO. He said 'Arafat's move is a practical interpretation of the Camp David partners' efforts to save the U.S. plan in the region following the victories of the Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese nationalist alliance.

The spokesman appealed to the all the Palestinian sides to move fast in order to end 'Arafat's formal legitimacy, and to form a nationalist Palestinian front that is honest and able to guide the Palestinian national struggle toward its aims. A responsible source in the PFLP said that 'Arafat's talks with the Jordanian regime constitute a serious threat to the Palestinian revolution. He said that these talks are going on amid the spreading trends of surrender and concessions among the 'Arafat gang.

Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Palestinian Liberation Front (PLF), has asserted that his front had previously rejected all kinds of dealings with the Jordanian monarchical regime, which has always plotted against the Palestinian cause by military crackdowns, by sending Palestinian leaders into exile, or by imprisoning thousands of Palestinian strugglers in jails. He said that the PLF believes that 'Arafat represents only himself, and that he has deviated from the Palestinian Councils' resolutions. The front's Secretary General 'Abd al-Fattah Ghanim said: 'Arafat's visit to the Jordanian regime is a new step on the road to national treason on which he has been marching since his visit to the Egyptian regime.

Commentaries Denounce 'Arafat Visit to Jordan

Talks Viewed

*JN271447 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1245 GMT
27 Feb 84*

[From the "On the Events" program]

[Text] 'Arafat and Jordanian King Husayn held secret talks yesterday on coordinating stands on the subjects Husayn recently discussed with President Reagan in Washington. The following is a report on these talks:

'Arafat arrived in Jordan yesterday and held lengthy talks with the Jordanian king behind closed doors. These talks dealt with coordinating stands on issues of common interest. Anyone who follows the movements of the 'Arafatist trend as well as the Jordanian king's movements, particularly his visit to the United States, realizes that the 'Arafat-Husayn talks are closely linked with the talks the Jordanian king held with U.S. President Reagan in Washington. They are also linked with talks the U.S. Administration held with 'Arafat for 9 months prior to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in the summer of 1982, as confirmed by the U.S. State Department and by the spokesman for 'Arafat's clique.

The direct aim of the talks between the Reagan administration and 'Arafat was to make 'Arafat, who was at that time enjoyed the confidence of the fighters, declare his recognition of the Zionist entity. Since such a recognition was difficult to declare at that time, the U.S. Administration decided to create the appropriate atmosphere for this declaration through the Reagan plan, which was presented after the resistance departed from Beirut, and through an implicit recognition of this plan. The 'Arafatist trend managed to wrench such a recognition from the PNC in its most recent meeting in Algiers.

This aim — namely, recognizing Israel and beginning negotiations with it — was the core of the Washington talks between the king and Reagan. The Jordanian king then announced that he and Reagan are in agreement on what they termed a comprehensive peace in the region. As for the way to establish this peace, the king's remarks that the Reagan plan remains the best applicable plan in the region emphasizes the two sides' approval of implementing the Reagan plan — a plan which does not give the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip an autonomy that is applicable to the inhabitants, and not to the lands. The inhabitants will be administratively linked with Jordan, whereas the land will be Israel's business.

Talks between 'Arafat and the Jordanian regime are focusing on reaching an agreement within the framework of the Reagan plan with the aim of determining the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip inhabitants, as reiterated by the 'Arafatist sources and the Jordanian regime's organs. As Jordanian sources described as responsible have emphasized, the talks stipulate that this agreement must come into existence before next fall, when the U.S. presidential elections begin, so that this agreement and the talks the king and the Zionist entity will hold because of it can be used as an electoral card in Reagan's hand, compensating him for the defeat he suffered in Lebanon.

In order to expand the 'Arafat-Husayn movement within the framework of the U.S. plan, we would like to indicate that the report 'Arafat's assistant Khalil al-Wazir and 'Arafat's political adviser Hani al-Hasan submitted to the 'Arafatist Central Committee guarantees Jordan's approval of reassembling the forces 'Arafat dispersed in the YAR and Sudan into a brigade to be stationed in Jordan. This brigade would be used as part of the Jordanian rapid intervention, which the United States is currently forming. 'Arafat's sources indicated that the procedures for these forces' participation in the Jordanian rapid intervention force were discussed during yesterday's meeting between 'Arafat and Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, after being

discussed in detail at a side meeting Khalil al-Wazir held with Jordanian Armed Forces Commander Zayd ibn Shakir.

'Arafat has unmasked himself and placed himself in the same trench as those plotting against the Palestine issue. This is a fact that no one can deny, even those who in the recent past were his closest aides and the strongest supporters of his conspiratorial stands.

'Arafat Delegation Said Unrepresentative

JN272053 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT
27 Feb 84

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat's tripartite delegation in Amman includes Yasir 'Arafat, Khalil al-Wazir, and Hani al-Hasan. All of them represent one trend and one clique — they represent the rightist course. These people cannot claim to represent the PLO. In fact, Khalil al-Wazir and Hani al-Hasan do not have positions in the PLO leadership. Neither can they claim that their delegation represents national unity, because all Palestinian factions are outside this delegation. They cannot claim that they express independent Palestinian decisionmaking, because representing this decisionmaking must stem from adhering to the PNC resolutions. They work contrary to the PNC resolutions.

'Arafat, Al-Wazir, and Al-Hasan only represent themselves. They express a deviant political course whose followers abandoned armed struggle. By approaching the Camp David system and Camp David itself, they are trying to achieve gains in exchange for relinquishing the Palestine cause and stabbing the rights of the Palestinian people.

Observers have discovered that the U.S. warship *New Jersey* began its intensive shelling of the nationalist positions in the Lebanese mountain when Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman, as if it wants to assure the negotiators in Amman that adhering to Washington's policy will not lead them to their end. In any case, these negotiators do not need this U.S. appeasement, because the path in front of them is blocked. This is because it is a fact that what is taken by force can only be regained by force, and that the enemy will only make concessions when it is forced to make such concessions. Forcing the enemy to make concessions will not be achieved through imaginary U.S. pressure, but through conflict — in other words, through armed struggle. He who drops armed struggle from his calculations will fail politically, and will be unable to achieve any objective.

TISHRIN Commentary

JN280852 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT
28 Feb 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Lebanon, 'Arafat, and Reagan's Solutions" *TISHRIN* says: Syria has been aware from the beginning of the meaning of the U.S. interference in Lebanon in terms of the collusion and the coordination which took place at

the time of the invasion and subsequently in terms of the U.S. stands, practices, and steps. These steps culminated with the presence of the U.S. fleet off the Lebanese coast, and the protection of the Lebanese regime and its army which the United States had hoped to use as a policeman to safeguard the regime in Lebanon that is allied to it, to protect Israel's security, and impose the minority's hegemony on the Lebanese people.

After the Lebanese nationalist forces' steadfastness and the courageous and unwavering Syrian stand foiled all that the Reagan administration sought to achieve from its interference in Lebanon since the eruption of the conspiracy in Lebanon until the *New Jersey's* continual shelling, we find that 'Arafat has started to implement that part of the conspiracy that has been prepared for him by coordinating with the Egyptian regime which is deeply involved in Camp David and with the Jordanian regime which is waiting for 'Arafat's companionship to cross the remaining road toward the capitulatory solution in accordance with the Camp David method.

TISHRIN adds: No one expects 'Arafat to succeed in implementing this part of the U.S. capitulatory and liquidatory scheme, and to have better luck or be more capable than the Phalangist isolationists who failed despite Reagan's fleets, warships, and guns. Neither does anyone expect 'Arafat to be more courageous than Anwar as-Sadat, Nur as-Sa'id, and all those whose logic betrayed them and who were defeated as a result of their miscalculations as to the strength of their masses and the dangers of proceeding on the course which is hostile to the masses' will. One can simply say that all 'Arafat's current moves are merely gestures through which he is trying to give the impression that he still exists, that he still is the head of the PLO, and that he is still doing his best to implement what he pledged to carry out.

Syrian-Italian Party Talks Begin 27 Feb

JN272220 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT
27 Feb 84

[Text] The first round of talks was held this morning at the Ba'th Party National Command between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation led by Comrade Tawfiq Salihah, National Command member and chairman of the Arab Syrian-Italian Friendship Society, and the Italian Communist Party delegation led by Comrade Dario Valori, member of the Political Bureau and vice president of the Italian Senate, now visiting Syria at the invitation of the Ba'th National Command. During the talks, Comrade Salihah presented a complete explanation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, its objectives, and its struggle. He explained Syria's stand, which rejects the Camp David accords, the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance, and the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. He also explained our stand on the 17 May agreement between the Lebanese Government and Israel. It has been asserted that the Lebanese problem can only be solved through a Lebanese national dialogue, and through the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Geneva conference.

Comrade Valori asserted that Syria is the main force in the Arab homeland that can confront the Israeli and U.S. plans and policies in the region. He praised Syria's stand aimed at achieving

peace in Lebanon and at maintaining its unity and independence. He also asserted that the 17 May agreement between the Lebanese Government and Israel was not unanimously accepted by the Lebanese people; it divided them.

Hand Grenade Causes Injuries in Jerusalem 28 Feb

TA280810 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT
28 Feb 84

[Text] A terrorist attack was carried out a short while ago in the center of Jerusalem. The police report that a hand grenade exploded in a boutique on 68 Yafu Street, Jerusalem. According to some reports, several people have been injured — most of them slightly — and were evacuated to the hospital. The center of Jerusalem has been blocked to traffic.

Further Details

TA280844 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0832 GMT
28 Feb 84

[Excerpt] About 18 people, most of whom were slightly injured, have thus far been evacuated from the explosion site in the center of Jerusalem. This has been reported by the first aid center. Our police affairs correspondent, Alon Diskin, brings us this update from the scene of the attack:

Right now the security forces are continuing the evacuation operation, and so far at least 10 have been taken to hospitals. Blood stains still cover the sidewalks in the area, but all the injured people have been taken to the hospital.

Casualty Count at 21

TA280914 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT
28 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Twenty-one people were injured by the explosion that occurred this morning in Jerusalem, one of them seriously. All were taken to the Sha'are Zedeq and Biquir Holim hospitals.

Here are the details that have so far been reported on the incident: At around 0930, two hand grenades exploded at the entrance to a clothing shop near the Clal building in Jerusalem. Police units were rushed to the site and the commander of the Jerusalem District police, Rahamim Komfort, reported the following:

[Begin Komfort recording] Traffic has resumed and everything is proceeding as before. We have several people in detention, are questioning them, and hope to find the one who planted the hand grenades among them. [end recording]

Ben-Eli'ezer on Effect of Husayn-Arafat Talks

TA270824 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Telephone interview with coordinator of activities in the territories Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by correspondent Gil Ronen "this morning" — recorded]

[Text][Ronen] Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, how does the 'Arafat visit to Amman affect internal politics in Judea and Samaria?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] There is no doubt that this visit is a sort of high point, from the point of view of the territories' residents, with

regard to their expectations. For many months the residents have been bystanders and spectators vis-a-vis developments in Tripoli and the resulting implications for the inter-Arab arena. In this regard, they have been anticipating this meeting for a long time. One of their expectations is that something will come out of the meeting. Contrary to our assessments, they pin great hopes on this meeting.

[Ronen] Do the military authorities prevent, or alternatively, encourage Palestinian public figures to leave the West Bank for Jordan?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] For many weeks, almost since the reconvening of the Jordanian Parliament, there has been an increase in travel to Jordan. We have not prevented any of these trips. From this point of view the historical process, I would say, is continuing: We give permission to anybody who so wishes to go to Jordan. This has always been the case. It is true that there has been an increase in requests by public figures to leave lately and these have been granted.

[Ronen] Finally, is there any fear that any PLO groups are staging demonstrations of force in the territories?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Look, what happened among the PLO ranks as a result of the Tripoli events caused some sort of a split in the territories. The very thought of 'Arafat going to Jordan results in some division among PLO representatives in the area. Furthermore, this phenomenon in fact started when he visited Egypt.

[Ronen] Do the divisions result in violence too?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] They are expressed in internal violence. In the meantime, as onlookers, we observe a process of increasing violence among the various groups.

[Ronen] The IDF does not intervene, does it?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] At this point, the IDF is not intervening. Of course, when we see that matters disrupt public order, it is very probable that we will intervene. As long as disturbances or developments take place inside the campuses or other closed areas and not in the streets, our policy is one of nonintervention.

Further Ben-Eli'ezer Remarks

TA271250 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT
27 Feb 84

[Interview with coordinator of activities in the territories Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by correspondent Arye Gus, during a visit to the village of Bayt Immar in the West Bank on 27 February — recorded]

[Text][Ben-Eli'ezer] It is true that from the point of view of the inhabitants the Husayn-'Arafat meeting is a sort of high point as far as their expectations go. However, as you can see — and as we feel — contrary to the enormous enthusiasm which accompanied the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting, enthusiasm this time has decreased to the minimum possible, to a degree which is even surprising sometimes.

[Gus] You have allowed public figures from the territories to go to Jordan while the talks are underway. Have you also approved of meetings with Yasir 'Arafat?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] As for the requests to go to Jordan, we have not prevented these in the past and there is no reason to prevent them now or in the future.

Most of those who came and asked to leave need not have even asked; the majority of these people are allowed to enter Jordan without asking our permission. From this viewpoint, I would say we did not categorically approve a meeting for anyone with 'Arafat.

As for meeting with 'Arafat, as you know, this is illegal. Laws on this are clear and written down. I would not want to say today what will be done, what we will do; I would not want to deal with speculation at the moment either. The moment we receive any information or reports we will deal with them on an individual basis.

[Gus] How, in your opinion, is the Husayn-'Arafat meeting compatible with the moves Husayn has recently made in the territories, namely, electing representatives from the territories to the Jordanian Parliament and reconvening it?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] From this point of view, it is incompatible and therefore predetermines the failure of the meeting. In fact, a thorough study of the moves and declarations by King Husayn indicates a reinforcement of the Jericho convention and the 1952 constitution; this is an attempt to bypass the Rabat summit resolutions.

They are certainly incompatible with the so-called sincere desire of King Husayn to reach some sort of formula with 'Arafat. In this regard, I would say, the inhabitants certainly will feel the effects of such a meeting. You sense a very large degree of pessimism.

There is no doubt that when you sum up the situation in the region, the general outlook of the sobered residents is that this meeting is an absolutely necessary stage in order to, once and for all recognize that the PLO in actual fact is not their representative.

[Gus] Do you think that, ultimately, a call will be issued from the territories for King Husayn to act independently, without the PLO?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I think that something much more important can come out of this process, namely, a recognition by the residents — who may once and for all exhaust the soul-searching process they have been going through — that there is nobody but themselves capable of representing them and their problems.

This is, after all, our basic conception; it originated at Camp David in fact. I hope that, as a result of this meeting, the inhabitants will recognize that the only body with whom they should sit down and with whom they should find a formula and a way to live together is Israel.

Attorney General Criticizes Jewish Settlers Council

TA260808 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
26 Feb 84 p 3

[Report by Tzvi Har'el]

[Text] "If we put up with the lawlessness in Judea and Samaria, we will also find lawlessness in Israel," Attorney General Prof Yitzhaq Zamir said the day before yesterday, 24 February, in a lecture he delivered in the Tel Aviv attorney's house, as guest of the regional committee of the Lawyers Chamber.

Prof Zamir added that the background to the disputes between Arabs and Jews is the purchase of land and its maintenance. The lawlessness, Zamir thinks, should be attributed to a small group of Israelis. He emphasized that despite the fact that this is a marginal group, it does not mean the group is not dangerous. "This group has great destructive power and it could disrupt relations between Arabs and Jews," he said.

The attorney general sharply criticized the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea and Samaria and the Gaza District. He said that council members had incited the public against the author of the Karp Commission Report, Attorney Yehudit Karp, and the incitement was accompanied by insulting epithets. Zamir stressed that anyone who knows the Justice Ministry's tradition knows that the ministry's staff scrupulously avoids any political bias.

Zamir also said the Karp report had attained its goal because it had exposed the problem and moved the government and other elements to find solutions to the breaches of law and order in Judea and Samaria.

Military Courts Legal Procedure Challenged

TA261743 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT
26 Feb 84

[Text] Seventeen Israeli lawyers and attorneys from the territories want to confer with the heads of the civilian administration and protest the legal processes and procedures in the military courts. These lawyers — including Le'a Tzemel Felicia Langer from Israel and (Jonathan Kutab) from Ramallah — contend that the military courts mete out severe penalties. They also protest the fact that in their opinion indictments in the territories are also filed about marginal and unnecessary issues. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the members of that group have arranged a meeting with the legal adviser for the Judea and Samaria region, Lieutenant Colonel Yitzhaq Azel.

Former Gaza Mayor Not Allowed To Go to Jordan

TA270833 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
27 Feb 84 p 1

[Report by correspondent in West Bank Tzvi Bar'el and Arab affairs correspondent 'Oded Zaray]

[Excerpt] The civilian administration is preventing Rashad ash-Shawwa, who was dismissed as mayor of Gaza, from going to

Jordan. Ash-Shawwa wanted to go to Jordan to join other delegations from the West Bank which have left in the last few days to persuade King Husayn to enter the political process.

The civilian administration explained the ban on Ash-Shawwa's departure by saying: "We must protect Ash-Shawwa's life and we know that there are people out to assassinate him." Speaking with the *HA'ARETZ* correspondent, Ash-Shawwa declared that he was releasing the Israeli Government from any responsibility for protecting his life and that nobody would claim anything against it if something happened to him while in Jordan." [no beginning quotation mark as published]

Ash-Shawwa noted that a grenade had been thrown at his home a few weeks ago and that therefore "the government cannot be responsible for my life even at my own home," as he phrased it.

The reason why his request has been rejected apparently lies in the fact that relations between Ash-Shawwa and the civilian administration have deteriorated in the last 2 months. According to Ash-Shawwa, he was told that during his visit to the United States, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, the coordinator of activities in the territories, had been shown a film in which Ash-Shawwa accused Israel and called it a Nazi state. Ash-Shawwa denied having said these things and asked the civilian administration to show him the film but the latter has not yet granted his request.

Ash-Shawwa's request to attend a conference in the United States next month has been examined for some weeks now.

Meeting With Herzog Prevented

TA280856 Tel Aviv *HA'ARETZ* in Hebrew
28 Feb 84 p 2

[Report by West Bank Correspondent Tzvi Bar'el]

[Text] The civilian administration prevented a meeting which Rashad Ash-Shawwa [the deposed mayor of Gaza] had been scheduled to hold with President Hayim Herzog a few days ago. He was informed of the postponement one day before the meeting.

Ash-Shawwa told the *HA'ARETZ* correspondent that 2 weeks before the meeting he called the civilian administration's office and the adviser on Arab affairs in the office of the coordinator of activities in the territories to confirm that the meeting was definitely going to take place.

The only answer he received was that the matter was being dealt with. It has been reported from the civilian administration that the postponement came at the request of the presidential residence, but the *HA'ARETZ* correspondent has learned that it was the civilian administration that recommended that the meeting, if not canceled outright, at least be postponed.

The reason for the postponement apparently stems from the fact that relations between Rashad ash-Shawwa and the civilian administration have deteriorated in the last 2 months.

Bethlehem Mayor on Husayn-'Arafat Meeting

TA262030 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Interview in English with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj by Gil Sadan — date and place not given; viceotaped]

[Text][Frayj] I want Mr 'Arafat to know one thing: there will never be a military solution for the Arab-Israeli crisis, and that time is working against the interest of the Arab people in the West Bank and Gaza and the Palestinians elsewhere, that the only way for a solution of the dispute with Israel is through political talks, through mutual recognition, through the acceptance of the principle of peaceful coexistence, political compromise and negotiations with the Israelis face to face.

[Sadan] Do you see any possibility for such negotiations taking place at the present time?

[Frayj] Well, since Mr 'Arafat arrived in Amman tonight, or rather this afternoon, we better wait with our judgments and see how things will develop. Let us hope and pray that Mr 'Arafat and King Husayn will be able this time to reach an agreement on a political framework that will provide the machinery for political talks.

[Sadan] Do you think the obstacles to creating such a framework have been removed?

[Frayj] No, they have not been removed but we must take into full consideration that the situation today, February 1984, is different from the situation in April 1983, after what happened in Tripoli, the divisions in the PLO, and all this and that.

[Sadan] Do you see any way out of the present deadlock?

[Frayj] Israel would have to show more magnanimity toward the Palestinian people, because who in his right mind expects the Palestinians to come to the negotiating table with Israeli bulldozers working day and night to establish Jewish settlements and Jewish towns in the West Bank and Gaza. How can you have peace with the settlements as they are?

[Sadan] Do you see Israel coming forward with such an offer?

[Frayj] Never in politics is never, and maybe Mr Shamir might have something cooking in his mind.

Rabin: Labor Will Never Uproot Settlements

TA270856 Tel Aviv *AL HAMISHMAR* in Hebrew
27 Feb 84 p 2

[Report by Haifa correspondent Yaron Zelig]

[Text] "We will never again agree to uproot Jewish settlements. We are prepared for a territorial compromise, but we will not agree to uproot settlements as a precondition for negotiations. We will never again uproot Jewish settlements, including those that were established against our views, even if this means that they will have to live under foreign rule." These remarks were

made by Yitzhaq Rabin at a meeting organized by the Labor Party branch in Haifa yesterday evening to mark the 7th anniversary of the death of Yig'al Allon. Rabin reiterated his support for the Allon Plan and disclosed that all the settlements that were established during the tenure of alignment governments followed the principles of the Allon Plan, although the government had never accepted it as an official document.

Rabin also attacked reports alleging that Allon had been one of the staunchest advocates of relations with the Lebanese Christian community, saying he could not recall any other person who had been so sober and prudent at the beginning of this relationship.

Work Begins on New West Bank Settlement

TA280728 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The Solel Boneh construction company has begun paving an access road to Ramat Qidron, east of Jerusalem. Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that the work on the 2.5-km long road will end in about 2 months. Work on the infrastructure for the first district of Ramat Qidron will also begin. Some 1,300 families have purchased plots of land there, and 100 of them have already signed contracts for construction.

Nabulus College Closed 'Indefinitely' Following Clashes

TA241148 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] The administration of the An-Najah University in Nabulus has decided to keep the institution closed indefinitely. This follows violent clashes between leftist and religious students earlier this week in which three students were injured. Fighting between the two student groups has been reported outside the university as well.

Nabulus Youths Protest 'Arafat-Husayn Meeting

TA272111 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] In the center of Nabulus this afternoon, there was a demonstration of youths against the rapprochement between the PLO and Jordan. A few dozen demonstrators burned the Jordanian flag and pictures of King Husayn. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that they shouted against the reconvening of the Jordanian Parliament. The security forces did not interfere.

Ne'eman on IDF Patrols, West Bank Settlements

TA241144 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Feb 84 p 20

[Interview with Minister of Science and Development Prof Yuval Ne'eman by Refa'el Mann: "The IDF Has already Carried Out 40 Large-Scale Sorties North of the Al-Awwali River" — date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] There are signs that the terrorists are

nevertheless infiltrating into all the areas evacuated in Lebanon.

[Answer] There is no doubt that we must react sharply to the terrorists' reappearance; otherwise this whole story of an agreement with the Druze will fall apart. The agreement with the Druze will not be credible if we hide behind our line. This week's patrol was one of many; we have already carried out some 40 large sorties of this type, of forces larger than a company. I think that if we do not maintain a mobile presence, we will jeopardize our soldiers south of the line.

[Question] On what scale and for how long will the IDF have to stay in Lebanon?

[Answer] Some will have to remain, in my opinion, until the hoped-for horizon. I do not know if this is 10 years or a matter of years. I said it was a matter of years from the first day of the war, and Mr Begin asked me why I said so. I think that anyone who gave the public the impression that it was a matter of weeks was mistaken! There is no other option to maintain peace in the Galilee.

[Question] This week the budget was submitted to the Knesset. What is in it and what is not as far as the future of the settlements is concerned?

[Answer] The settlement budget has been cut, like all the other ones. I estimate the cut at about 11 percent, for the time being. The cut had been much bigger. Here and there we tried to save things. I think that in the future we may have serious regrets that we are not, with all our strength, taking advantage of the time we now have. Until the election in the United States we can still, without external pressure, carry out large scale activity. Settlement is the key. Every \$1 million that settlement lacks could boomerang on us later.

I regret that the government did not have the courage on this matter to say: We are cutting everything, but not settlement. But, on the other hand, when even security is being cut, I cannot demand that the government not cut it.

[Question] How many settlers will there be in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza this year?

[Answer] At the end of this fiscal year there will be between 50-60,000 settlers. At present there are 32,000. The increase will be thanks to the completion of apartments begun in previous years.

Moshe Arens Comments on Lebanon, Egypt

TA271603 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1515 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Tel Aviv, 27 Feb (ITIM) — Israel's enemies on the northern border want to shell the Galilee settlements, but their ability is limited. There are also elements among us who are now claiming that even the Peace for Galilee campaign did not remove this threat, but our enemies' limited ability stems from the fact that the IDF is in southern Lebanon. After the Katyushas that fell on Metulla, we will not leave Lebanon without

coordination and security arrangements with whoever controls the area beyond the range of the Katyushas. This was said today by Defense Minister Prof Moshe Arens, in his lecture at Tel Aviv University on behalf of (Studentiyon), a national student movement.

Regarding the Katyushas that fell near Metulla about a month ago, the defense minister said that of those three Katyushas, two fell inside the Lebanese border, and only one fell beyond the border. "Luckily for us nobody was hit, but this is already the seventh case of Katyushas being fired. It is correct that staying in Lebanon is a burden that is not easy and also frustrating. Some people call our departure from Lebanon an act of courage. Nothing is easier than that: You sit in your vehicles and get out. But it would then be very hard to live in Galilee. We are involved in a campaign that will not be concluded if the IDF leaves Lebanon. There is no dogmatism or entrenchment here, when we say we will not leave Lebanon without coordination and security arrangements. Our political decisions are based on looking forward, with the goal being to guarantee the safety of the citizens of Galilee."

Speaking about the frustration afflicting the Israeli nation, Prof Arens pointed out that the enemies around us require us to make a great effort and allocate many resources to security. "The country's citizens understand that we are faced with a genuine danger. They are prepared to devote many years of their lives to service in the IDF, and would like the problem to be solved in our wars: We will hit the enemy once and for all and put a stop to the acts of hostility. However, this cannot be done, and because of this inability we are frustrated."

At the end of his lecture, the students put questions to the defense minister. To the claim that the government's actions were not being sufficiently explained, the minister said that, in his view, there was a point to allocating funds for such explanation. "However, we sometimes need to know what to say inside the country. If there is a burning argument, demonstrations, shouts, these have an affect. We are a free country and we will not restrict freedom of speech. There are people who are demanding that we come to an arrangement with the Syrians, for instance, people such as Mordekhay Gur. There are those who demand that we leave Lebanon immediately. Now the Syrians are saying that if this is the case — and the IDF will leave Lebanon in any event — why come to an arrangement?"

At the same time, the defense minister warned the Syrians: "Anyone in Damascus who thinks the national unity that has always typified us no longer exists, and that there are those among us who are refusing to serve, would do well to understand that when it comes to the test we will never lose this unity."

On relations with Egypt, the minister said: "There is no doubt that there has been a retreat in the relations between the two countries. Cold peace — that was not the intention of those who signed the peace agreement, and it is not what we expected to get. We gave up Sinai and received a piece of paper that is good for diplomatic relations. The ambassador's recall to Egypt for consultations that have lasted for more than 18 months — that is a striking violation of the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt."

Later on the minister was asked about people who refuse to serve. He commented that this was a marginal phenomenon, it had no effect on the IDF's morale, nor was there any point, in his view, in making the punishments more severe. In contrast to this, he confirmed that there was an enormous number of volunteers for field combat units and people were fighting for every place. The same applied to the Air Force. In reply to another question, the minister said we would have no relations with those Shi'ites in Lebanon, supporters of Khomeyni, who were committing suicide in order to get to heaven quickly. However, most of the Shi'ites in southern Lebanon were not like that.

Cabinet Disagrees Over Withdrawal From Lebanon

TA271956 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT
27 Feb 84

[Text] Two camps are forming in the government concerning the withdrawal of the IDF from Lebanon. One camp, under the leadership of the prime minister and defense minister, thinks that the time is not ripe to decide about a new withdrawal. A second group of ministers thinks that it is time to withdraw from Lebanon, and to form a new policy vis-a-vis Lebanon. This party includes Deputy Prime Minister David Levi and Ministers Tzipori, Hammer, and Uzan. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir believes that we should wait and not at present make a decision about withdrawing. He argues that things should be followed closely, to see whether the Amin al-Jumayyil regime is collapsing or holding together. The prime minister believes that the aims of the Syrians must be closely watched. Our correspondent Yisra'el Segal reports that most of the ministers support the position of the prime minister and the defense minister.

Defense Sources on Redeployment Decision

TA270906 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Feb 84 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Tali Zelinger]

[Text] Sources in the defense establishment said last night that the official postponement of a decision to redeploy the IDF in Lebanon is related to the impact such a decision would have on the attempts to establish a dialogue with various groups in Lebanon. These sources explained that the calls for an immediate decision and its subsequent implementation have a destructive impact on the delicate fabric of relations emerging in southern Lebanon aimed at enabling a partial IDF withdrawal from various areas in Lebanon and its replacement with other security arrangements. The sources corroborated this version by pointing to the fact that each time there is talk in Israel about an imminent redeployment of the IDF farther to the south, along this or another line, progress toward an arrangement takes a real step backward and certain groups leave the arena of the contacts.

Two IDF Soldiers Wounded in Sidon 27 Feb

TA280725 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 28 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Two IDF soldiers were wounded in Sidon yesterday when light weapons fire and a grenade were fired at an IDF position near the municipality building. Security sources also reported

that fire was opened at a position of the "free Lebanon army" which was established by the late Major Sa'd Haddad and which coordinates its activities in southern Lebanon with Israel. The security sources attributed these attacks to the Shi'ite militia in southern Lebanon.

Paper Analyzes Logic of Lebanon Presence

TA280756 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
28 Feb 84 p 8

[Commentary by fellow of Yad Tabenkin Research Institute of United Kibbutz Movement Asher Maniv: "Illusions in Lebanon"]

[Text] It was, I believe, Lord Salisbury who wrote: "If you believe the doctors, nothing is wholesome; if you believe the theologians, nothing is innocent; if you believe the generals, nothing is safe."

In Israel's case, it is not the generals, but rather their present political masters who out-general them. Unless we remain in Lebanon "for a very long time," they say, Galilee will not be safe.

That is, of course, a debatable issue, at least as far as comparative safety is concerned. The spectre of Katyushas immediately following Israel's withdrawal is rather unconvincing, when one bears in mind that Katyushas never killed as many Israelis as the war in Lebanon. And the heavy toll of life goes on.

But then, by the same logic of "nothing is safe unless..." they go on to say that in order to protect Israel's hold on southern Lebanon, we must send troops north of the Al-Awwali line, as well as bomb "terrorist installations." Tomorrow, or the day after, the same logic will compel them to fight Shi'ites, Druse or even Syrians "in order to protect our planes and our patrols north of the Al-Awwali" — and so on, for ever and ever.

Let there be no mistake about it: The case against IDF sorties north of the Al-Awwali does not rest on the assumption (popular among doves, but actually weakening their case) that we may fight only in defensive action. The Lebanon war has confused the necessary distinction between offensive or military initiative and what Menahem Begin calls "wars of alternative." The Six Day War was a perfect example of justified preemptive offensive, but it was that exactly because there was no alternative. The war in Lebanon itself and the present actions north of the Al-Awwali are, in Begin's phrase, "wars of alternative," because their initiators imagine that the military alternative will bear political fruit, over and above what military action is capable of achieving in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Here is the real chasm between two opposing security doctrines. Not that one believes in taking the initiative, while the other one restricts itself to deterrence and defence — but that the "war of alternatives" doctrine believes that we can achieve our aims by means of war, while in the past we had always realized that all that war can do is to prevent the enemy from achieving his aims. No small matter that — our very existence depends on it; but it also implies that because of the nature of the conflict, there are limits to the effective use of force beyond the aims of survival.

Our government prided itself on "destroying the terrorist infrastructure" in southern Lebanon; but no war can possibly abolish the national aspirations of the Palestinian people, and as long as those exist, the problem cannot be solved by military actions. Israel succeeded in destroying the atomic reactor in Baghdad, but as long as we cannot remove the motivation for its erection, the nuclear danger continues to exist. Indeed, we won resounding and (until Lebanon) decisive victories in all our wars, but all they could achieve — actually, all they were meant to achieve — was to prevent the enemy from achieving his aims.

The reason for this lies in the very nature of *our* war aims. Unlike the Arabs, we could never entertain an absurd idea of destroying all our enemies (100 million Arabs in vast territories). Short of that, there is no way of imposing our will on the other side by the use of force. Our aims are reconciliation, peaceful co-existence, recognition of the existence of the Jewish state — and these cannot be forced. Military strength may help to convince our opponents that Israel is an established fact, but its use cannot by itself be an "alternative" to other elements of conflict resolution (deterrence, negotiation, efforts to remove suspicion, compromise, etc.).

The present raids and military patrols north of the Al-Awwali are motivated by the same mistaken idea as the Lebanon war itself — that it is possible for our military force to play a political role in the resolution of the conflict.

For what other reason can there be?

Israel Defence Forces positions on the Al-Awwali are in no way threatened by the advance of the Shi'ite and Druse forces; and in spite of recurring attempts by our politicians and the media to paint a threatening picture of vast amounts of terrorists returning to territories bordering our positions, reports from abroad indicate no such thing. On the contrary, Shi'ites and Druse are careful to keep them within bounds as much as possible.

Deterrence? From what? Surely not direct attack, which none of the participants in the Lebanese scramble even dream about. And as for terrorist attacks in the south, clearly those are not prevented by military action in the north. Patrols on the road to Beirut have no effect on terrorists — they just expose the men of the patrols themselves to probable terrorist attacks. Let us hope that we don't have to wait for casualties among the patrols to understand their futility. As for air raids, when we moved into Lebanon almost 2 years ago, we were told (in this case, correctly), that bombing had proved inefficient. So what is the point of it now?

The only logical reasons for our intervention in the Lebanese civil war (and that is what it is) are political ones. Our political leadership has apparently learned nothing. They still believe that Israeli military force can influence a "new order" in Lebanon. Defence Minister Moshe Arens loves to appear in the cloak of responsible statesmanship, but secretly he seems to envy Arik Sharon. Yitzhaq Shamir offers a different tone from his predecessor, but his actions prove him to have the same illusions as Mr Begin.

One cannot, however, avoid the suspicion that there may be an

additional motive: to keep the world, the Arab countries and the Israeli public itself busy with the continuing war in Lebanon. As long as that occupies all our minds, there will be no need to deal with the thornier (but much more important) problem of the West Bank and the Palestinians. In the eyes of the Likud, nothing is more desirable than perpetuation of the present impasse, while at the same time voicing pious statements about readiness to negotiate with King Husayn. Negotiate on what? On keeping the territories?

Here the moderates of this country face a difficult dilemma. If they continue to concentrate all attention on the Lebanese issue, they might well be playing into the government's hands. But if they call the government's bluff and try to transfer public attention to the more important long-range question of continuing the peace process with Jordan and the Palestinians, it might be at the expense of the more immediate objective of getting our soldiers out of Lebanon and, above all, to avoid further bloodshed.

There is, therefore, no alternative for moderates but to fight a two-front battle. At least, let us be constantly aware that we may not neglect either issue.

Kohen-Orgad Holds Meetings in United States

TA280536 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] From this morning, the Israel Government reportedly is starting an austerity program to reduce the balance of payments deficit. This was told to officials in Washington by Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad. One area where cuts will be made is settlements. On the discussions, Kohen-Orgad spoke to reporter Connie Lon:

[Begin recording] [Kohen-Orgad] There was no pressure in the past exercised by either the State Department or Secretary Shultz. I think Secretary Shultz and the administration as a whole is very sympathetic with Israel. They are concerned with our economic problems. I think they see the efforts that are done, that are carried out in Israel, and I can say if I have to sum it up that they wish us that we shall continue consistently with our efforts, and they wish us to succeed in this.

[Lon] If the Congress passes increased aid, as expected, will the administration try to block it?

[Kohen-Orgad] That has the administration to be asked. I think the American public opinion, including the Congress and the administration, are aware of the efforts being carried through by us, and they will make their judgment and their decision, I hope, accordingly.

[Lon] The finance minister also said the dollarization plan is dead, and was not discussed at all, and he said Secretary Shultz expressed great interest in the reaction of the Labor Party to his plan.

While his meeting was going on, important activity was going on in the Middle East Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. They approved grants of \$1.1 billion in economic aid and \$1.4 billion in military aid to Israel. The full committee will vote on it later today, and the entire House of Representatives in the next 2 weeks.

The committee also froze the aid level to Egypt, although they remain extremely high, and the members passed a resolution asking the administration not to negotiate directly or indirectly with the PLO. [end recording]

HATZOFE Comments on Effect of Iran-Iraq War

TA270924 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 27 Feb 84 p 3

[Commentary by Ya'akov Edelstein: "The Iran-Iraq War and its Effect on Israel"]

[Excerpts] The Iran-Iraq war also affects Israel and its position. However, whereas so far Israel has been able to stand on the sidelines and joyously watch this fratricide, if the situation on the front changes as expected and Iran wins and takes over Iraq, then Israel would be faced with a real threat.

Some people think that the Iran-Iraq war has diverted international public opinion from the problem of Judaea and Samaria. This war provided Israel with material for its international public relations campaign: Here were two Muslim countries fighting each other and it was not Israel that was the center of tension in the Middle East, as Arab propaganda has been claiming for years.

However, if a real change occurs on the battlefield in the form of a victory for Iran, then Israel must take a sober look at the situation. As far as Israel is concerned, it is good that this static war goes on and it would not be upset if Iraq won. However, an Iranian victory on the battlefield would not be in Israel's interest because the Khomeyni regime linked with Syria might foil any peaceful arrangement in the region. A blockade of the Strait of Hormuz and a rise in oil prices in the world market would also be to Israel's detriment.

Briefs

Satellite Transmissions to Europe — Following an agreement reached during a visit to Israel by representatives of the European Broadcasting Union [EBU], Israel has begun transmitting news via satellite to the EBU at its request. To date, Israel had been using news material received via satellite according to a unilateral agreement. The director general of the Israel Broadcasting Authority, Yosef Lapid, yesterday informed the authority's executive about the new agreement. [Excerpt] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Feb 84 p 2 TA]

Reportage on OAU Council of Ministers Session

Meeting Opens in Addis Ababa

AB271810 Paris AFP in English 1741 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, Feb 27 (AFP) — The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Council of Ministers meeting was opened here today by the Pan-African body's current chairman, President Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia. He told the meeting that "the escalation of conflicts and misunderstandings in certain areas has made the yearning for peace even more pressing."

The meeting, which traditionally concentrates on budgetary and financial matters, is the first for two years which is not expected to be disrupted by quarrels over the eligibility of delegates.

It was the admission of the Polisario Front's Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) to the 1982 meeting which sparked the dispute that still threatens to split the OAU, but this year the SADR agreed to stay away in the interests of harmony.

The chairman of today's opening session, Libyan Foreign Minister 'Ali at-Turayki, called for African unity "in spite of ideological differences."

Lt Col Mengistu called on all states to look for a constructive solution to the Western Sahara conflict between the Polisario Front and Morocco, and said that he would continue his efforts to find a negotiated settlement in Chad.

On southern Africa, the OAU chairman said that the OAU was in favour of any solution which would result in Namibian independence, but warned that proposals by South Africa should be treated carefully. In an apparent reference to Pretoria's recent deal with Luanda, trading the departure of South African troops from southern Angola for Angolan curbs on Namibian nationalist Southwest Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) guerrillas, Lt Col Mengistu said that South African [words indistinct] to slow down the liberation struggle of the Namibian people. He repeated OAU support for SWAPO and the movements fighting white minority [words indistinct] South Africa, the African National Congress, and the Pan-African Congress. He called for more financial support for these movements, noting that subscriptions to the special OAU aid fund were (?6) million dollars in arrears.

Subscriptions to the organisation as a whole were 16 million dollars behind, almost twice the OAU's annual budget, Lt Col Mengistu added.

Mengistu Asks for Dues

EA272034 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and of COPWE, and commander-in-chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, called upon member states of the Organization of African Unity [OAU] to settle all their outstanding contributions. The call was made in a keynote address he made while opening the

40th ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers at Africa Hall this afternoon.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu, who is the current chairman of the OAU, said that the fact that some member states do not pay their contributions punctually had at present resulted in the accumulation of over \$40 million [words indistinct] become one of the causes for undermining the activities of the organization.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu said the special fund of the Liberation Committee is also faced with a similar problem. In this respect, the fact that the present outstanding arrears of more than \$60 million is impeding the intensification of the independence struggle is indeed cause for serious concern. He stressed that the continental organization cannot be strong, and its activities effectively carried out while beset by such financial problems.

The 40th session of the OAU Council of Ministers is devoted to budgetary and administrative matters, and the council's agenda includes, among other things, the report of the Liberation Committee, the problem of African refugees, economic and technical cooperation matters, as well as disarmament and security questions in Africa.

Libyan, Moroccan Foreign Ministers Meet in Addis Ababa

LD270947 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, 27 Feb (JANA) — Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salim at-Turayki, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, conferred in the Ethiopian capital last evening with Dr Abdelouahid Belkeziz, the Moroccan minister of foreign affairs.

During the meeting, they discussed the topics on the agenda of the 40th conference of the OAU foreign ministers, which will commence today in Addis Ababa. They also discussed the fraternal relations of cooperation between the two countries and the means to consolidate and support this cooperation to serve the interests of the two peoples.

Oueddei's Adviser: GUNT Ready to Talk to OAU

LD272028 Tripoli JANA in English 1909 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, Jumada al Ulla 23, Feb 27, JAMAHIR-IYAH NEWS AGENCY — A delegation of the Chadian National Unity Government, headed by Goukouni Oueddei's special adviser, Adam Yacoub, arrived in Addis Ababa yesterday.

The delegation leader said on his arrival in Addis Ababa that the National Unity Government, under the leadership of Goukouni Oueddei is the only legitimate government which has the right to defend the interests of the Chadian people inside the O.A.U. according to Nairobi summit resolutions. He said that his government will discuss with the O.A.U. the French and Zairean occupation of parts of Chad, and "we have great confidence in this organization to find a peaceful settlement to the issue".

He added that his government is ready to respond positively to any call by the O.A.U. present chairman to settle the issue.

He added that Habre's delegation does not, according to OAU resolutions, have the right at OAU meeting to represent Chad. "We abide by the O.A.U. resolution to the fullest".

ACP-EEC Resolution Backs Habre Regime in Chad

AB241943 Paris AFP in English 1735 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Brazzaville, Feb 24 (AFP) — A resolution backing the Government in Chad of President Hissein Habre was unexpectedly passed here by the Joint Commission of the European Economic Community (EEC) and the African, Pacific, and Caribbean (ACP) Group. The resolution, presented yesterday by some French Euro-MP's, spoke of the risks of Libya's annexing the north of Chad. It called on the EEC-ACP Council of Ministers to do everything for the restoration of peace over the whole of the country.

French Socialist MP's abstained on the vote. They later explained that there was undoubtedly foreign intervention by Libya in Chad, but that a unilateral condemnation of Libya while negotiations were taking place on the matter did not seem to them to be likely to help these negotiations.

Debate before the vote lasted an hour, and it was only adopted by the ACP countries by a majority of 12 votes to eight, most of them preferring to abstain.

Meanwhile, the Joint Commission approved the creation of a working group on the question of human rights. Its task will be to "make proposals to facilitate dialogue between the parties on the respect of fundamental human rights", in EEC as well as ACP countries.

The annual meeting, which opened on Monday, was closing today.

ALGERIA

Madagascar President Comments on SDAR, Chad*LD261441 Algiers APS in English 1025 GMT 26 Feb 84*

[Text] Algiers, 26/2/84 (APS) — President Didier Ratsiraka, President of the Malagasy Republic, and his wife as well as the delegation accompanying them left today Algiers at the end of a short visit, during which President Ratsiraka had political talks with President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic, FLN Party secretary general.

In a declaration to the press, President Ratsiraka evoked the Algerian-Malagasy bilateral relations, the questions relating to the holding of the next O.A.U. summit as well as the situation in Chad.

The Malagasy head of state stressed first of all that his visit constitutes: "A resumption of contacts to coordinate our actions and exchange our views." "On the bilateral plan," he said, "we think that one should activate now the meeting of the Algero-Malagasy joint commission. We agreed upon that and the date of this meeting will be shortly fixed."

On the international plan, President Ratsiraka indicated that his talks with President Chadli Bendjedid were centered on hot problems notably in Africa and in the Middle East.

Regarding RASD [SDAR] participation in the 20th OAU summit, the Malagasy president recalled that he had declared that if RASD is not admitted to take part as a full member in the Conakry summit, Madagascar will not be present to this summit. "It is high time," he added, "to give to RASD the role and the position due to them in the concert of African nations."

Evoking the situation in Chad, President Didier Ratsiraka pointed out that his permanent position is that the legitimacy is represented by the government of the national union of transition (GUNT) "the legitimacy which has been recognized by the OAU."

In this connection, the Malagasy president recalled that the OAU has created an inter-African force of peace-keeping. "This force," he said, "which should have repelled any aggressor or troublemaker, failed in its mission."

Bendjedid Receives Sao Tome, Principe Minister*LD261409 Algiers APS in English 1028 GMT 26 Feb 84*

[Text] Algiers, 26/2/84 (APS) — President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic, FLN Party secretary general, audience yesterday Mrs Maria do Nascimento Da Garca Amorim, foreign affairs minister of Sao Tome and Principe. The Sao Tome and Principe special envoy was to deliver a message from Sao Tome and Principe president to President Chadli Bendjedid.

LIBYA

Official in Damascus on Jordan Embassy Incident*JN271819 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Feb 84*

[Text] Damascus — As-Salhin al-Jawhari, Libyan charge d'affaires in Amman, holds the Jordanian Government responsible for severing the diplomatic and political relations with the Jamahiriya. At a news conference he held today at the Libyan Embassy in Damascus, Al-Jawhari asserted that these relations, which were severed unilaterally, will continue with the fraternal Jordanian people, and that these relations still exist.

Al-Jawhari categorically denied the Jordanian authorities' accusations that the Jamahiriya was responsible for the Jordanian Embassy incident in Tripoli. He said that the Libyans are not in any way connected with what took place, and that the incident was not prepared by Libyan hands. Al-Jawhari condemned the 'Arafat-Husayn meeting, noting that their meeting falls within the framework of peddling capitulatory solutions with the Zionist enemy. He also asserted Libya's rejection of these solutions.

Jallud Holds Press Conference in Nigeria*LD241229 Tripoli JANA in English 0923 GMT 24 Feb 84*

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada al Ulla 19, Feb 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Staff Major Ahmad Jallud announced that the Jamahiriya and Nigeria had agreed to work together to support the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in achieving peace and stability in Chad and in encouraging the new initiative by the organisation to mediate between the Chadian factions on the basis that the Chad problem is an African issue.

Staff Major Jallud in a press conference held in Lagos at the end of his visit to Nigeria added that both the Jamahiriya and Nigeria are neighbours to Chad and influenced by what goes on there. Hence, it is their duty to aid the Chadian people to achieve peace and to keep the influence of the foreign powers away from this African country.

He then said: "The new regime in Nigeria headed by Major Muhammadu Buhari and members of the Supreme Military Council believe in the role of people and are determined to solve the country's problems and pay great attention to Nigeria's role in African problems".

He then added "We will willingly cooperate with this regime. The Libyan Arab and the Nigerian people are bound together with many historical ties. There are many fields for mutual cooperation based on respect and noninterference in internal affairs of others and for the good of Africa". He then expressed his optimism about the future of the cooperation existing between the two countries, noting that the agreements signed during the visit of the revolution's leader to Nigeria makes a solid base which could be developed.

Staff Major Jallud expressed his satisfaction with the talks he held in Nigeria with Major Muhammadu Buhari and Brigadier

Rondi Edde Jabun as fruitful discussions on African issues and mutual relations. He confirmed the Jamahiriya's stand in support to the patriotic regime in Nigeria and to the Nigerian people. Staff Major Jallud at the press conference spoke about the blatant Zionist imperialist aggression in the Lebanon and hailed the Lebanese national resistance which forced the Atlantic forces to flee, especially the U.S. forces and said that the U.S. and the Zionist forces are now suffering a defeat in Lebanon in the face of the national resistance and the Lebanese people and thanks to the support of Libyan and Arab and Syrian people, indicating that these victories are a lesson that small nations are able to achieve victory over imperialist forces.

Staff Major Jallud explained that Lebanon is not Grenada which deluded the U.S. Administration to invade. Confirming that the victory of the national forces in Lebanon and the U.S.'s defeat in this country, is the victory of all small nations in Africa, Asia and Latin America because the destiny of peoples is the same.

Just as the Lebanese people have come out victorious so will the Chadian people because the people at the end win however strong the colonialist states become and possess all types of destructive weapons, because history is a defender of people. Evil forces however many means of destruction they possess are defeated in the end.

The press conference, held by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud was attended by correspondents from international news agencies in Lagos in addition to radio and T.V. stations and the Nigerian News Agency and reporters from Nigerian newspapers.

Al-'Ubaydi Receives USSR Official, Ambassador

LD260801 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Feb (JANA) — The brother secretary of the Popular Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison last night received Shvedov, director of the First African Department of the Foreign Ministry of the Soviet Union. Viewpoints about many international issues and the situation in the Arab region and Africa were exchanged during the meeting, which was attended by the Soviet ambassador to the Jamahiriya.

Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir Receives Ghanian Delegation

LD250013 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, has received Captain Kojo Tsikata, Provisional National Defense Council special adviser; and Appiah Korang, secretary for fuel and power in Ghana. The meeting was attended by the Ghanaian ambassador to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Receives Lebanese Party Figures

LD232058 Tripoli JANA in English 1701 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada al Ulla 19, Feb 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir,

commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, today received Riyadh Ra'ad, secretary of the Lebanese National Salvation Front and responsible for foreign relations in the Socialist Progressive Party; Doctor 'Abdallah Sa'ada, secretary of the Syrian National Social Party; Hashim 'Ali Muhsin, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Party; and George Battal, a Political Bureau member of the Lebanese Communist Party.

Student Demonstrations Reported in Cairo

LD261428 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] An angry student demonstration exploded yesterday, Saturday, at Cairo University, the largest Egyptian university. The demonstration was in protest against the oppressive policies practiced by the Egyptian regime under the cover of the announced state of emergency.

Thousands of students participated in this demonstration, which is the second at Cairo University in a week for the same reason. The demonstrating students called for abolishing the shameful agreements with the Zionists, and for a democratic position for the student unions.

JANA: Fighting Continues in Sudan's Upper Nile

LD261632 Tripoli JANA in English 1455 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Khartoum, Jumada al Ulla 22, February 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Fierce clashes were still in progress yesterday between revolutionaries and the government's army in the Malakal region in southern Sudan's Upper Nile Province. Reports from the region said the army suffered heavy casualties and losses in equipment, and that the revolutionaries were up to yesterday morning besieging units of the army in the region.

On the other hand, and with regard to the hireling Numayri regime's crisis situation as a result of the crushing blows inflicted by the revolutionaries of the army, a meeting was held yesterday in Khartoum between the Egyptian regime's minister of state for foreign affairs, Butrus Ghali, and the hireling Numayri regime's foreign minister, Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak. Discussions during the meeting centered on the deteriorating situation in Sudan following the continuation of revolutionary attacks against the government's army in the Upper Nile Province's Malakal region.

JANA: Somali Regime Imposes Curfew on Hargeysa

LD261636 Tripoli JANA in English 1426 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Nairobi, Jumada al Ulla 22 February 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Somali regime authorities have imposed a curfew in the city of Hargeysa, northwest of the country, which was yesterday swept by massive demonstrations on the anniversary of the February 1982 uprising during which the government soldiers killed a large number of citizens.

Reports from there said that demonstrators distributed leaflets condemning the policy of agent Siad Barre and destroyed several

police and other government cars. Somali police then launched a widescale operation to besiege the town. Disturbances erupted and several people, including 22 students, were injured, while a large number of school children and students were arrested.

On the other hand, Somali repressive authorities closed all the schools in the town and imposed severe repressive measures, warning all those who support the uprising that they will be deprived of their share of the rare well water in the town, which is facing a severe drought.

MAURITANIA

Diplomatic Recognition Extended to SDAR

AB271548 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, today sent the following message of congratulations to His Excellency Mohamed Abdel Aziz, secretary general of the Polisario and president of the SDAR:

The celebration of the proclamation of the SDAR gives me a good opportunity to send to you, on behalf of the Mauritanian people, their CMSN, and their government as well as on my own behalf, our hearty congratulations and our fervent wishes for your personal happiness, for the progress and the prosperity of the brotherly Saharan people and the triumph of their just cause.

I also take this opportunity to bring to your knowledge the decision of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to recognize the SDAR, taking effect today. I am convinced that our two countries will maintain fruitful and friendly relations, based on mutual respect of our national sovereignty, our territorial integrity, noninterference in the internal affairs of each country, good-neighborliness, guarantee of mutual advantages and peaceful coexistence. I am also convinced that our two countries will positively contribute, with other states of the subregion, to the building of a great Arab Maghreb which will be united and prosperous.

It is in this perspective that henceforth we count on your wisdom, your intelligence and in particular on your spirit of sacrifice, in order to find, with the friendly Moroccan opponents, a just and lasting solution to the conflict between you [words indistinct] efforts aimed at an atmosphere of peace and concord within our Maghreb subregion.

For our part, we hope that a rapid solution to this conflict is found on the basis of mutual understanding, and we are convinced that you will not disappoint the hopes of the Maghreb, African, and Arab people and that you will assume your responsibilities at the opportune time. Please accept, Mr President, my highest and most fraternal regards.

[Signed] Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Haydala

MOROCCO

Foreign Affairs Official Returns From Ethiopia

LD241055 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Abdelhaq Tazi said on his return today from Ethiopia that he conveyed a message from the king to the Ethiopian president and chairman of the OAU, and that he had consultations with the assistant secretary general of the OAU. In this context he said:

[Begin Tazi recording] As you know, I have returned from Addis Ababa where I conveyed a message from His Majesty King Hassan II to President Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the OAU. It was also an opportunity to consult with Peter Onu, assistant secretary general of the OAU, about the coming conference of foreign ministers, which will be held in Addis Ababa 27 February, and we also talked about African issues, especially our national issue.

Syrian Envoys Deliver Message From Rif'at al-Asad

LD241854 Rabat MAP in English 1227 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Rabat, Feb 24, (MAP)—Mr Madar and Mr Dorayd, sons of Dr Rif'at al-Asad [commander of the Syrian Defense Companies], the brother of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, left Morocco Thursday afternoon.

During their visit to the Kingdom, the two Syrian emissaries conveyed to King Hassan II a verbal message from their father, Dr Rif'at al-Asad.

SUDAN

Foreign Minister Mubarak Receives Egypt's Ghali

NC251647 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, held talks in Khartoum this afternoon with Sudanese Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak. Their talks concerned the coordination of the two countries' positions on issues to be submitted to the African Foreign Ministers Council which begins its meetings in Addis Ababa on Monday.

Dr Ghali said that during the meeting a review was made of all the issues that will be submitted to the African foreign ministers conference within the context of joint Egyptian-Sudanese diplomacy. He added that agreement was reached to adhere to a compromise in dealing with the Western Sahara question. He also said that the two countries' positions will be coordinated when the African foreign ministers discuss the other topics.

The Egyptian and Sudanese foreign ministers also reviewed the developments in the situation in the Middle East, particularly the latest developments in the Lebanese and Palestinian issues. The two countries agreed on the need to work toward solving the

Lebanese crisis and effecting the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon in order to preserve its sovereignty and independence.

The two ministers also discussed ways to ensure the success of the African summit conference which will be held in Guinea in July.

At-Tayyib Leaves for Washington With Message

JN272108 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Feb (SUNA) — First Vice President 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib left for Washington this afternoon with a message for President Ronald Reagan from President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri.

President Numayri Receives Construction Minister

EA231602 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] President of the Republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri this morning received in his office at the Cabinet Secretariat Abel Alier, minister of construction and public works.

Alier briefed his excellency on the ministry's work, particularly regarding the current projects on construction and maintenance of main roads, on which studies have been carried out within the framework of the plan on road studies, finance and implementation.

The president of the republic gave the minister a number of directives relating to this.

TUNISIA

Foreign Minister Essebsi on Egypt, Libya

PM241100 Jidda UKAZ in Arabic 18 Feb 84 p 10

[Interview with Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi by Muhammad Krishnan in Tunis — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: At the recent Islamic conference in Casablanca, Tunisia took a certain stand on the question of Egypt's return to the ICO. While you maintain that your attitude was based on principles, others point out that to ask Egypt to revoke the Camp David agreements would be an impossible condition for Egypt to meet, and would entail insurmountable problems for Egypt.

Answer: I really would have liked not to answer such questions which wrongly suggest that there is a dispute between Egypt and Tunisia. We have no problems with the Egyptian people or their government. The Egyptian people are our friends and we love them and are indebted to them for what they did during our national struggle. Our present relations with Egypt are the result of an Arab consensus and an Arab summit resolution which we have honored, no more and no less.

Having explained the reasons for Egypt's exit from the Arab League and the ICO, we still believe that we should let time take its course and defer the matter until a future opportunity when the issue can be raised without this kind of argument and without some states threatening to withdraw. Egypt's return would strengthen, not weaken, the ICO. Nobody wants the opposite. Some people claim that the Camp David agreements are dead, but we believe that we should not exaggerate matters. Egypt has on many occasions declared that it is neither willing nor able to abandon these agreements which were signed by As-Sadat. Mubarak himself has frankly said so. In fact, there would be a military disaster if Egypt dropped the Camp David agreements because Israel would not remain idle. We have not asked Egypt to do that because we realize that such a step would be impractical.

Question: In your view, is there an alternative to the Fes plan?

Answer: The Fes plan is the only Arab plan. It has now become an Islamic plan and has also been embraced by the nonaligned states. The Arabs have no alternative to the Fes plan, but that does not mean that we are unaware of its weaknesses and its lack of an implementation mechanism.

Question: What has become of the case of the blown up Tunisian-Algerian gas pipeline near the Libyan border?

Answer: Tunisia leaves it to the world public opinion to pass judgement on this case which was bound to harm the good relations between the two fraternal countries. Such incidents must be avoided in the future. We are holding consultations with the Libyan brothers on this matter and on our bilateral relations in general. We expect a visit by a Libyan official at the highest level to resume consultations.

Question: How does Tunisia view Palestinian developments, especially after 'Arafat's visit to Cairo?

Answer: One of our policy's fixed principles is noninterference in the affairs of the PLO, which we support as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We regret the division within the resistance ranks. It only weakens the resistance. We are doing what we can to mend the rift. We hope that the PLO will adopt the necessary independent decisions to solve its problems and chart its course. The future political course of the PLO is rather clouded. 'Arafat's visit to Cairo has raised the following question in Palestinian and other circles: Was the visit a turning point in the PLO policy or was it an individual move? The PLO should clarify its position on this and other matters because that affects Tunisia's position.

Question: But on whose side are you?

Answer: So far, we still consider the PLO to be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and we recognize Yasir 'Arafat as the legitimate PLO chairman elected by the legitimate PLO bodies. If there has been any change we would like to know it. Any any rate, the various Palestinian bodies will meet and define their positions and in the light of that we will define ours.

Bourguiba Receives Message From Mauritania's Haydala
LD270957 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT
27 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The Mauritanian envoy to President Habib Bourguiba, Shaykh Sid Ahmed Ould Babamine, permanent secretary of the Military Committee for National Salvation and personal envoy of the Mauritanian president, arrived last evening in Tunis carrying a personal message to President Habib Bourguiba from President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala.

WESTERN SAHARA

President Addresses Anniversary Celebration
LD280052 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT
27 Feb 84

[Text] The Saharan people yesterday celebrated the eighth anniversary of the SDAR. The celebrations were marked by an important speech delivered by SDAR President and Polisario Secretary General Mohamad Abdelaziz and by a military parade.

Mr Abdelaziz particularly stressed in his speech that since the convening of the fifth Polisario Congress, and despite the difficult international situation that is marked with the escalation of the imperialist onslaught against the international liberation movements and the progressive countries, the Saharan people managed to stay in the forefront in order to strengthen their struggle for their independence and freedom.

The head of the Saharan state also explained that it is immediately apparent that henceforth there will be no solution to the Saharan problem as long as King Hassan II is in power. He went on to say: The solution lies with the fall of the king, because he continues with the aid of his allies the policy of expansion and occupation, and he rejects the OAU peace plan.

The SDAR president also dealt in his speech with the situation which is leading to a revolution — the situation which Morocco is currently undergoing. He praised the struggle of the Moroccan people.

Mohamed Abdelaziz concluded his speech by lauding the stand of revolutionary Algeria which has never ceased to stand alongside the Saharan people who are struggling for their freedom and dignity.

The celebrations, which will continue today, are marked with an expression of the great efforts made in the field of the general popular recruitment, and projecting the will of a people who more than any time before are resolved to liberate their land under the leadership of their vanguard movement — the Polisario.

Foreign Ministry Declines To Attend OAU Session
LD242211 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT
24 Feb 84

[Text] The Saharan Foreign Affairs Ministry in a statement released today in the liberated territory announced that the SDAR Government — the 51st OAU member — has recently decided in (?an exercise of its sovereignty) not to attend the 40th session of the OAU Ministerial Council.

The statement stressed that in view of the conditions experienced by our continent — that is the repeated blows by those who stand alongside the Moroccan regime in and outside Africa — the SDAR wants to prove once again its cooperation with the OAU by taking this decision very responsibly.

The statement said in conclusion that the SDAR Government, which holds the continent in the highest esteem, is convinced that all those who cherish the interests of this continent and the future of our organization will regard this action as a new expression of political wisdom and maturity of the struggling Saharan people.

ETHIOPIA

ELF-PLF Leader on Provisional Government

GF271344 Doha QNA in Arabic 1140 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Doha, 27 Feb (QNA) — Osman Saleh Sabbe, leader of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Forces, said the establishment of a provisional Eritrean government in the liberated territories — the current percentage of which exceeds 80 percent of Eritrean territories — will be the most important issue discussed during the unity meeting scheduled to be held in Khartoum in April, and will be attended by all Eritrean factions to come up with a unity plan which will be agreed upon, to unify the political, military, and information work, and establish a unified Eritrean monetary fund.

In a statement to QNA, the Eritrean official, who is currently visiting Doha, said he has proposed the establishment of a provisional government with the participation of all Eritrean organizations that provide educational, health, judicial, provisions, and other services to the nationals in the liberated territories, pointing out that the formation of that government and its announcement will raise the prestige of the Eritrean revolution in international circles. That action, he said, will also bring the recognition and support of fraternal and friendly states for it as an independent state which will turn the war between Eritrea and Ethiopia into one between two states, and not a local war as Ethiopia claims. It will also give the Eritrean revolution experience in administering the country which will help prevent the existence of dangerous armed conflicts and divisions after independence.

TANZANIA

Algerian Foreign Minister Statement at Dinner

LD251223 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Dar Es Salaam, 25/2/84 (APS) — Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahim, Politburo member, started an official visit to Tanzania at the invitation of his counterpart Salim Ahmad Salim.

Talks will be focused on bilateral relations and the examination of the situation in Africa with a stress on Chad, Western Sahara, and Namibia. [Words indistinct] the dinner given in his honour by Foreign Minister Salim Ahmad Salim, Mr Taleb Ibrahim said his visit aims at consolidating links between the two countries and promoting consultation on problems of common interest for a better coordination on the international and African fields.

He reaffirmed that the two countries share the same ideals of progress and social justice, indicating that Algeria and Tanzania have set up solid relations based on a joint ambition to see Africa ensure its destiny with dignity, freedom, and welfare for all its peoples.

On the international field, Dr Taleb Ibrahim said both countries share the same principles over problems of Western Sahara, Palestine, South Africa, and Namibia.

This attitude is dictated by the objective to see all African peoples get an equal benefit from principles of liberty and social and economic promotion called for by the O.A.U. Charter. He reasserted also attachment of both Algeria and Tanzania to non-alignment, which represents a salutary reference vis-a-vis the conflictual relations created by the international bipolarism.

UGANDA

Government, Tanzania Agree To Trade Off Debts

EA242059 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] The Ugandan and Tanzanian Governments have agreed that what Tanzania owes Uganda shall go for the settlement of recognized financial claims by Tanzania against Uganda, and that in cases where Tanzania paid the eight creditors of the former East African Community in excess of their liabilities, the portion of the sums will be regarded as sums paid by Uganda to the same creditors. This was contained in an agreement signed in Kampala this afternoon between the Tanzanian and Ugandan Governments after concluding bilateral discussions held in Jinja from 21 February to 23 February 1984.

Minister of Regional Cooperation, Mr Sam Tewungwa, signed on behalf of the Ugandan Government, and the Tanzanian minister of finance and treasury, Mr Cleopa Msuya, signed on behalf of his government.

This agreement is a (?result) of talks that were held by the three east African heads of state in Arusha on 16 and 17 November 1983, where the three presidents made important decisions on the question of dividing the assets and liabilities of the former East African Community. Arising out of the formula for dividing these assets and liabilities in the proportions of 42 percent to Kenya, 32 percent to Tanzania, and 26 percent to Uganda, Kenya realized excess assets and so did Tanzania. Uganda realized a shortfall.

The three heads of state further directed that the compensation to Uganda amounting to \$191,136,000 shall be paid at the 1977 exchange rate, which was 8.31542 shillings to the dollar for all the countries. Tanzania's portion of this amount is \$46.4 million.

Speaking at the same function [as heard] before signing the agreement, the Tanzanian minister of finance and treasury, Mr Cleopa Msuya, said that now that the two countries had concluded the bilateral discussions, they should start thinking of grounds for future cooperation, and regard this as a matter of the past. Mr Msuya affirmed that the excess assets owed to Uganda by Tanzania will be compensated accordingly, and hoped that the bilateral talks between Kenya and Uganda shall be completed soon. The Tanzanian delegation, which leaves for home tomorrow, includes the minister of justice, Mr Warioba, the deputy minister of finance, Mr Steven Kibona, and five officials. The ceremony was also attended [on the Ugandan side] by the minister of rehabilitation, Mr Masette-Kuuya, the permanent secretary, regional cooperation, Mr Nyakimwe, and other high-ranking government officials.

CAMEROON**Government Indictment Against Ahidjo Reported**

*AB271235 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT
27 Feb 84*

[Excerpt] The trial of those accused of attempting to disrupt state security resumed this morning before the Yaounde Military Tribunal. Joseph Marcel Ndi has just come back from the courthouse.

[Begin Ndi recording] Yes, the hearings resumed in Yaounde with the presentation of an indictment by the government's legal expert. I will disclose the indictment immediately: Death sentence through firing squad in public for Ahidjo; life sentences for Major Ibrahim and Captain Salatou; and seizure of all property the origin of which cannot be determined.

The government's expert also requested that Bello Bouba Maigari [former prime minister], Maikano Abdoulaye [former minister of Armed Forces], and Ibrahima Waziri [former National Gendarmerie delegate] be tried; Maigari for subversion; Maikano Abdoulaye for subversion and breach of con-

fidence; and Ibrahim Waziri for aiding and abetting subversion. The final verdict will be returned tomorrow at 1600 [1500 GMT].

CHAD**French Secretary of State for Defense Arrives**

AB281105 Paris AFP in French 0724 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Ndjamen, 28 Feb (AFP)— The French secretary of state for defense, Jean Catel, arrived in Ndjamen on Monday for a few days visit which will enable him inspect the disposition of [words indistinct] of Operation Manta.

In a brief statement to the press on arrival in the Chadian capital, Mr Catel said his visit was "mainly one of a political presence on the field of operation."

Jean Catel reaffirmed that the Operation Manta in Chad was a mission of dissuasion and of technical assistance to the Chadian National Armed Forces of Hissein Habre. He felt the French military presence in Chad effectively dissuades the "aggressor" from penetrating deeper into the country.

GHANA

Rawlings Meets Canada's Pepin; Lauds Canadian Aid

AB272215 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT
27 Feb 84

[Text] The chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council, Flight Lieutenant J.J. Rawlings, announced today that the prisons in the country would be converted into reformation centers. Speaking aboard the (*Neville*), a Canadian drilling vessel undertaking oil exploration off the coast of Half-Assini, the chairman said there would be no prisons anymore.

Flight Lt Rawlings, accompanied by the visiting Canadian external relations minister, [title as heard] Mr Jean-Luc Pepin, was flown aboard the vessel 12 miles off shore by a helicopter of the drilling company. The chairman said Canada is making it possible for Ghana to win its economic independence, adding that the Ghanaian-Canadian relationship means a lot to Ghana. He said the country was in misuse in the past, and he declared: "When we took over in 1979, they did not understand us, and they did not like the 31 December revolution also. He repeated that the power of the people is not transferable, and that the revolution is paving the way for the noble people to help manage the country. Flight Lt Rawlings said he thinks the whole oil exploration exercise has opened the grounds for saving Ghanaians. He referred to what he described as the blind criticism that has been going on in certain Western circles. He said the Canadian minister has come at the right time, and that Canada should put in as much as it can to help Ghana.

Commentary Views Lusaka Talks on Namibia

AB272015 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT
27 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] A meeting was held between representatives of Angola, the South African Republic and the United States of America in Lusaka, the Zambian capital. It discussed the disengagement of troops in the south of Angola which would be carried out under the observation of the recently established Angola-South African Commission.

The question of settling the situation in Namibia was a definite mark on the agenda of the meeting. The West presents this as a goodwill gesture on the part of South Africa. However, if there were any changes in Pretoria's position, they were not voluntary but forced, for despite all its efforts South Africa has not been able to crush the resistance of the Namibian people by force of arms. The racists have not succeeded in silencing the Frontline States though pressure is brought to bear upon them. But they, above all, Angola gave a firm rebuff including armed resistance to the South African design.

For instance, after running into stiff resistance on the part of the Angolan army, the South African troops, which recently invaded the country, were forced to beat a retreat. Under the influence of external and internal factors, Pretoria and its U.S. backers

were forced to start negotiations with Angola. At the same time, the racists have evidently not abandoned their former plans.

The usual activities of the U.S. diplomatic service also draw attention. The United States even proposed to dispatch its military observers to control the disengagement of troops. The Angolan ANGOP PRESS AGENCY stated that the People's Republic of Angola had no intention of admitting U.S. observers into the country since the United States of America is a biased side in the Namibian question. The real basis for the Namibian settlement is provided, as before, by UN Resolution 435 which stipulates the withdrawal of South Africa troops from Namibia and the holding of free elections in the country. The SWAPO, Frontline States, and all of independent Africa stands for the early implementation of that resolution.

LIBERIA

Doe Departs on Official Visit to Belgium

AB271740 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT
27 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The head of state, Commander in Chief Samuel Doe, is on his way to the Kingdom of Belgium for an official visit. Commander-in-chief Doe is going to Belgium at the invitation of the king of that country. The head of state, who is being accompanied by an 18-man delegation, left Roberts International Airport this morning for Belgium. In the absence of the Liberian leader from the country, the minister of state, Dr J. Bonnard Blamo, will conduct the affairs of the nation as chairman of the Cabinet in close coordination with the co-chairman and vice head of state, and the Executive Committee of the PRC [People's Redemption Council].

MALI

Bamako, France Sign Regional TV Development Accord

AB271710 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT
27 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Mali and France this morning signed a financial agreement on regional television development in Koulouba. This agreement involves 1.2 billion Malian francs and covers all fields of production training. The agreement was signed for Mali by Mr Alioune Blondin Beye, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, and for France by Mr Jean-François Gaspo Daromitch, the charge d'affaires at the French Embassy in Bamako.

NIGERIA

Government 'Actively Involved' in Namibia Talks

AB271025 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT
27 Feb 84

[Text] Nigeria is actively involved in all the ongoing negotiations on the future of Namibia and the withdrawal of racist forces from Angola. Announcing this in Luanda, the Nigerian ambassador

to Angola, G.O. George, said that Nigeria was consulted before last week's tripartite talks between Angola, Zambia, and South Africa. He said that although Angola and Nigeria had not made steady progress in their economic relations, the two countries had, however, expanded political and diplomatic ties. Mr George explained that economic cooperation with Angola had been hampered by the internal political situation in that country. The envoy disclosed that plans were under way to convene the second meeting of the Nigerian-Angolan joint commission in June to mark out ways of implementing the bilateral trade agreement signed between the two countries.

Imports From Major Trading Partners Drop

AB271753 Lagos NAN in English 1305 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Lagos, Feb 27 (NAN) — Nigeria's imports from its eight major trading partners have dropped consistently since 1981, an investigation by the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) has shown.

Imports from each of the countries, which together accounted for 85 percent of Nigeria's total imports, dropped by between 16 percent and 55 percent during the period. The countries are the United States, the UK, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, France, Switzerland, and Italy.

The largest drop in imports was from the Federal Republic of Germany. Nigeria's imports from that country dropped from 1.02 billion naira in 1982 to N267 million in 1983. In the same period, imports from Denmark slumped 46 percent, Japan 44 percent, United States 42 percent, and Italy 38 percent.

The volume of goods bought from Switzerland and the UK each went down 35 percent during the period, while imports from France recorded the lowest decline of 16 percent from N751 million to N638 million.

The NAN investigation reveals that the decline in imports was caused by the country's unfavourable balance of payments which worsened dramatically last year. The sharp drop in Nigeria's earnings followed the slump in oil sales which account for the bulk of the country's revenue. Industrial machinery and food-stuffs constitute 80 percent of Nigeria's imports.

Minister, CSSR Envoy Discuss Trade, Cooperation

AB271956 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Nigeria has urged Czechoslovakia to balance her trade with the country by buying more of the country's goods, especially crude oil. The minister of national planning, Chief Michael Adigun, made the call in Lagos today when the ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia, Mr Evzen Vacek, paid him a courtesy call. Chief Adigun told the envoy that the trade imbalance between the two countries needed to be reviewed with the view to identifying areas of improvement.

He stated that the two countries could further improve their cooperation in the areas of education, medical [as heard] and afforestation. Chief Adigun also called for aid and the training of experts in the field of geology and engineering.

On the field of agriculture, the minister said that Czechoslovakia could go into partnership with the Nigerian Grains Board in maize and rice production.

Replying, Mr Vacek pledged his country's continuous support and cooperation in all fields. The envoy promised that his country will do everything possible to assist Nigeria in irrigation.

Buhari on Wage Policy, Industrial Harmony

AB271736 Lagos NAN in English 1545 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Enugu, Feb 27 (NAN) — The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, said in Enugu today that the military administration had adopted "a real wage policy" aimed at shifting emphasis to what workers' wages could buy.

Addressing the opening of the Second Triennial Delegates Conference of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Maj Gen Buhari said that under the new policy, the country's distributive system would be restructured to make an effective use of the cooperative system. "If your money wage can buy 10 loaves of bread, and we manage to reduce the price of bread so that the same money can buy 20 loaves of the same size of bread as before, your real wage has doubled," he said in the speech which was read on his behalf by the minister of labour, Brig Samuel Omojokun.

The head of state said that the new arrangement would involve the NNSC [Nigerian National Supply Company], and the Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria with the NLC "as an active collaborator."

Maj Gen Buhari said that to tackle the unemployment problem effectively, the national educational system would be reviewed with a view to identifying and removing constraints. The head of state, however, said that although the new administration was committed to industrial peace, frivolous industrial actions, particularly strikes and lock-outs would not be tolerated. He added that the principle of no work no pay would be strictly enforced, and that economic sabotage by companies would not be tolerated.

He announced that the National Advisory Council would be revived next month to review urgently the labour laws, and to propose new measures to ensure lasting industrial harmony.

Idiagbon on 'Fugitives,' Government Performance

AB271010 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] The chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon, says the Nigerian Military Government does not expect Britain to protect or support Nigerian fugitives currently in that country. Brig Idiagbon expressed this view while addressing newsmen shortly after arrival at Jiddah to begin a 4-day official visit to Saudi Arabia. He said that reports from

Britain indicated that Nigerian fugitives abroad were confused and unable to settle down as a result of sustained demonstrations by Nigerians resident in Britain.

On the performance of the new military administration, the chief of staff said that it was too early to assess the new government, adding, however, that the massive support from Nigerians is a source of great inspiration to the new military rulers. Brig Idiagbon said that although the new regime was less than 2 months old, a lot of stolen money had been recovered, while the economy and other affairs of the country were being effectively controlled. He expressed satisfaction that Nigerians were fully aware that they had no other country.

Death Toll From Yola Religious Rioting Reaches 60

AB281225 Lagos NAN in English 1220 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Yola, Feb 28 (NAN) — The death toll from yesterday's religious disturbances in Jimeta, Yola has reached 60, a hospital source said in Yola today. The source told the NEWS AGENCY

OF NIGERIA (NAN) that about 50 victims of the disturbances were on admission in the Yola Specialist Hospital. The source said that 57 of the dead victims had either machete, axe, or sword cuts, while the remaining three had gunshot wounds.

A NAN correspondent, who went to most parts of Jimeta-Yola yesterday, said that the number of casualties could be higher because some corpses, which littered the streets, had not been conveyed to the hospitals. Some wounded victims went away to take care of themselves, while some more corpses are yet to be recovered from the fanatics, the correspondent added.

Meanwhile, life is returning to normal gradually in the state capital, and hundreds of people were seen returning to their homes.

In a statement issued yesterday, the secretary to the state government and head of service, Alhaji Suleiman Abba Jimeta, ordered civil servants in the ministries and parastatals to report for work today since the enclave of the fanatics had been cordoned off by law enforcement agents.

ANGOLA

Minister Discusses Military Budget at Seminar

MB280800 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The funds allocated to the Angolan Armed Forces and its departments in the State General Budget should be spent according to the austerity and expenditure restrictions, Deputy Finance Minister (Sebastiao de Sousa e Santos) said yesterday. Speaking at the opening session of the seminar being conducted for the Armed Forces financial organizations in Luanda, the deputy minister of finance also asked the combatants to deposit a portion of their wages in the bank so that the loss of national currency during combat, and its capture by the enemy, may be averted.

The seminar's primary aim is to assess the activities carried out between 1982 and 1983; to overcome the difficulties experienced in planning and carrying out the programming of tasks; and draft activities for the current year. The seminar's agenda comprises several conferences on military wages, schedules, premiums and allowances, embezzlement of funds in the Armed Forces, and ways to overcome these problems.

UNITA: UK Citizens' Release Subject to Conditions

MB280555 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The UNITA Movement in Angola claims to have shot down a helicopter which flew over a column of about 80 foreign hostages being marched southwards. The Cuban crew of the helicopter are reported to have been killed. Addressing newsmen in Lisbon, the UNITA spokesman said that the 46 Portuguese nationals abducted in a raid on a northeastern mining area last Thursday would be freed as soon as the Red Cross could transport them. However, the 16 British nationals being held would be released subject to certain conditions. The spokesman made no mention of the 15 Filipinos being held.

The spokesman said the hostages, mainly technical advisory staff captured in the attack on the town of Kanfunfu, were in good health, except for one Portuguese who suffered from diabetes.

In the meantime, the British Embassy in Luanda has asked the Angolan Government to take steps to ensure the safety of up to 200 other Britons believed to be working in the area where the kidnapping took place.

Paris Newspaper Interviews UNITA's Savimbi

PM262030 Paris LE FIGARO in French 17 Feb 84 p 2

[Interview with UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi by Yves Breheret in Jamba, southern Angola — date not given]

[Excerpt] Jamba, southern Angola — Savimbi: After the Socialists came to power in France I feared they would side entirely with the Cubans and Russians. Then we felt that President Mitterrand, despite his agreement with the PCF, was fairly

clear and firm as regards the Soviets. We then thought: His positions are good. In the case of Angola — a small nation dominated by the Soviets through the Cubans, he cannot fail to see that UNITA is fighting for national independence and responsibility, even if he cannot help us. We also felt this feeling would arouse President Mitterrand's sympathy since we do not want to seize power and are seeking means to reconcile UNITA and the MPLA — both signatories of the Alvor agreements in 1975. The third, Holden Roberto's National Front for the Liberation of Angola, no longer exists. I can admit to you that we heard, through our African friends, that Mr Mitterrand accepted UNITA's existence as a fact and also accepted its sincere desire to reach a negotiated solution.

A Smell of Oil

However, things suddenly changed. There is talk of France selling 37 helicopters to the MPLA. And yet Francois Mitterrand said in Yugoslavia that he sent troops to Chad and Lebanon to limit the battlefield. However, he is extending it here, because if Mr Mitterrand's France gives arms to the MPLA, there are other countries which will give arms to UNITA. People in the West do not really understand the dynamics of this struggle. The war here is strategically a guerrilla war. We have the essential means of waging this struggle for 10 years. Thus, I think France is making a bad move when we say: France has good relations with the MPLA. That is a fact. It is throwing its weight behind it. It has suspended its participation in the Contact Group on Namibia and is condemning South Africa: That is a favorable set of circumstances to ensure that the MPLA cannot be suspicious of it. This helicopter affair changes everything.

At present I know the 37 Gazelle helicopters have not yet been delivered, but that a sale contract has been signed. What does it matter whether they are "civilian" aircraft sold for oil prospecting. As you can imagine, that will not prevent Luanda from using them with Cuban pilots for the war. France and ELF-Aquitaine have taken a misguided view of Angola's future and have miscalculated. They saw only money and oil.... I hope that view will be changed.

Breheret: You still want to negotiate with the MPLA provided it rids itself of the Russians and Cubans. How do you think that can be accomplished?

Savimbi: It's a fact that there would be no war without the Cubans. In 1975 we initiated minor clashes with the MPLA and FNLA. But everyone was so weak that after 6 months it would all have ended with a conference among those three parties. We would have said: "What are we doing? This is madness!" Our weakness was the guarantee of a general reconciliation. It was the Cubans' entry into the game which altered the entire context. We are now fighting because of the Cubans. They must leave. First, it is a matter of principle: The Cubans are not Angolans but Americans. They fabricated links with Angola by saying there had been a woman named Carlotta who left Angola to go and fight in Cuba. That is all untrue. However, this is not a precondition for negotiations. We can negotiate any time the MPLA decides to talk to us.

Breheret: I personally have not met any South Africans here. Can you tell us what kind of relations you have with them?

Savimbi: In 1978, after the invasion of Shaba in March 1977 by the sons of Katangan gendarmes with Luanda's blessing, we received aid from imperial Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Senegal, the Ivory Coast, and France. We had to find a route for that aid. We went to see the South Africans, who opened the Namibian border to us. Since then, they have been supplying us with fuel on credit and medical aid. But they are not supplying us with arms. They show us the markets, leaving it to private companies to cover them. We pay from \$5 to \$10 million in precious timber, ivory, and diamonds. There is no South African air cover either.

The Freedom To Choose

Breheret: What kind of relations do you have with SWAPO? You seem to be holding back with an eye to the future.

Savimbi: You must first realize that the Ovambos, who form the majority of SWAPO, are called the Coignamas in our country, and that they live on both sides of the border, which means they may enjoy the sympathy of some of our cadres. We have had very close ties with SWAPO. UNITA's position is as follows: If SWAPO attacks, we respond. There have been clashes at waterholes in Cunene District. In May 1982, under pressure from the MPLA, a brigade (3 battalions) attacked us. They suffered heavy losses and have since laid low. It is quite clear that Namibia must be independent, but we want it to have the freedom to choose the type and system of government it wants without foreign interference, as in Angola with the Cuban intervention. The principle that the Cubans ought to leave Angola to enable peace to return to southern Africa and facilitate independence has a certain logic. The United Nations cannot oust the South Africans from Namibia and place SWAPO in the saddle with its Resolution 435. The South Africans are afraid the Cubans will come down and do it. When France, Britain, and Portugal decolonized, there was no comparable case of foreign troops being positioned on the border. I have some knowledge of the South Africans. They not only have the means, they also have the will. They are not people to run away or give up. We must therefore watch the way in which the South Africans act and think, not provoke them, but adjust to their thinking in order to influence it. The people who have contacts with the South Africans have won. I promise you they will be there, even in 5 years' time. Their interests must be considered as far as possible.

Breheret: Do you have contacts with ANC?

Savimbi: No, except that a brigade is being used by Luanda against UNITA.

Breheret: At present South Africa is negotiating with Mozambique, and then with Angola, from which it has withdrawn. Don't you fear a disengagement?

Savimbi: South Africa invaded 150 km of Angolan territory to be able to thwart a possible SWAPO offensive in the rainy season, as usually happens. The operation lasted 1 month. It is over. I must tell you frankly that thus far I have not been in contact with them to hear what they have in mind. We know from the Americans that the South Africans did not meet with the MPLA in Praia in Cape Verde. It was the Americans who talked with the Cape Verdeans. That peace effort was aimed at encouraging direct talks between Angolans, South Africa, and possibly

SWAPO. But SWAPO would have to stop laying mines and attacking. As for a South African disengagement, the MPLA clearly demanded it in Paragraph 4 of its proposals to South Africa, which stipulates: "An immediate end to all logistical support for UNITA." If that happens, I think it will affect us, but to a lesser extent. It is something that will happen one day or another. We must be able to continue fighting. We have taken steps to see to that. People are not panicking and we are behaving as normal. Peace with SWAPO does not solve the conflict in Angola.

Breheret: Meanwhile, your guerrilla warfare or your war continues and you occupy, control, or disturb three-fourths of the country. Can you say how many casualties this conflict has caused on both sides?

Savimbi: No, because it is too early. But by way of comparison, the war between the Portuguese and the liberation movements did not kill 30 percent of the people who have died in this war in 2 years. In other words, between 1976 and 1978 the war of resistance against the Cubans and Russians claimed more lives than claimed during 15 years of war against Portugal.

Breheret: You will not make us believe that your officers have not attended foreign military academies!

Savimbi: There is no point beating about the bush; most of our officers were trained in Moroccan military schools. Some 80 percent of our officers were trained in Morocco. We make no secret of that.

Breheret: Is America supplying you with anything other than unofficial messages!

Savimbi: Nothing. The Americans are giving us absolutely nothing. It is just that American sympathy is a little more active and they say to friendly countries that support us: "Carry on, you are doing the right thing."

LESOTHO

Finance Minister Presents 1984-85 Budget

MB271731 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT
27 Feb 84

[Text] The minister of finance, Mr K.T.J. Rakhetla, today presented a record budget of 314,633,320 maluti for the 1984-85 financial year, an increase of 10 million maluti over the 1983-84 financial year.

Presenting the budget before a packed National Assembly this morning, Mr Rakhetla explained that the figure comprises recurrent revenue of 230.2 million maluti; development aid grants worth 46.8 million maluti; concessionary loans worth 35 million maluti; and commercial borrowing of 2.5 million maluti, which is an impressive drop from 1983-84 commercial borrowing of 38.8 million maluti.

The recurrent expenditure, according to the minister, will amount to 124 million maluti. Statutory expenditure has been

allocated 60.2 million maluti; the administration account 11.1 million maluti; and the capital expenditure will be 119.1 million maluti.

The minister said the customs union revenue for the 1984-85 financial year will soar up to 151 million maluti from 109 million maluti, and attributed the growth to the country's substantial growth of imports over recent years and the rapid growth in the custom's revenue pool of the Southern African Customs Union Area. Mr Rakhethla also announced an increase of 1 percent on sales tax from 1 April, and added that the sales tax will yield some 16 million maluti this coming financial year. The rate of the liquor commission levy will be raised from the present 17 and 1/2 percent to 22 percent from 1 April. The minister also announced the tight control of travel and transport for officials, including international travel.

For the food self-sufficiency program, the minister notes that the total provision for the next financial year will be 11 million maluti. He also announced that for the coming year a contracting service for farmers participating in the program would be introduced. Under the new system, farmers will pay according to services given to them.

Mr Rakhethla disclosed that discussions were at an advanced stage on procurement of funds to start operations at the National Abattoir, which has been completed. Of the giant Highlands Water Scheme, which will among other things provide export earnings, electricity, and irrigation for the country, Mr Rakhethla said the first stage of the feasibility studies had been completed and the second stage was due to be completed next year. Mr Rakhethla disclosed that arrangements are underway to start hydroelectricity projects to provide power to the communities in the remote areas of the country like Mokhotlong, Qacha's Nek, and Quthing. He also announced the intention of the government to further the exploration of oil and uranium this coming financial year. He added that the government plans to open the (Letsenola) Dry Diamond Mine, and the project will initially employ some 100 Basotho.

The Lesotho Telecommunications Corporation will, according to the minister, commission a new transit telephone exchange in April this year. The exchange, which has 60 percent greater capacity than the present exchange, will be routed via a satellite and bypass the Republic of South Africa. For the districts, the minister said the African Development Bank [ADB] would assist in installing a higher capacity microwave system.

Mr Rakhethla said the 1984-85 capital budget would provide the Lesotho National Development Corporation [LNDC] with 2.5 million maluti. He added that next, the LNDC will negotiate projects which, when operating fully, will employ 2,000 Basotho.

On the construction of roads in the country, Mr Rakhethla announced that 33 million maluti had been provided for the coming year. The money will provide for the completion of the Mount Moorosi to Mphaki section of the Southern Perimeter Project. The final task on this section is the construction of a bridge at the Mount Moorosi end, and this will be completed this financial year.

The minister said in the new financial year, the Masianokeng to Hlotse Road will be rehabilitated with the ADB's soft loan. The Ministry of Works will resume the construction of the Mphosong to Halejoane Road. Mr Rakhethla also said design work for the first section of the Mohale's Hoek to Quthing Road is at an advanced stage, and work on providing an all-weather pavement for this section should commence next year. The minister said discussions are continuing with the ADB and the International Development Association of the World Bank on a fourth highway project, which includes the rehabilitation in 1984-85 of the Leabua Jonathan Highway running between Leribe and Mafeteng, and Masianokeng and Roma Road. The Youth Service Center which the prime minister, Dr Leabua Jonathan, has promised the people of Thab Tseka, has also been provided for in the 1984-85 estimates.

Mr Rakhethla said this coming financial year, top priority has been given to village water supply projects because of the current drought. To this end, 90 new projects, serving 55,000 people, will be completed by the end of the forthcoming financial year. The minister also announced that the Airport Hotel, with the assistance of the Danish International Aid for Development, has been converted into a cooperative center and has been transferred to the Ministry of Rural Development and Cooperatives.

The minister announced that the government has decided to review the salaries of the civil service, chiefs, and all those who are paid through the Treasury. To this end, a commission has been formed to reduce excessive disparities in salaries and benefits between staff of the parastatal organizations and the civil service. In reviewing the salaries, the commission will also take into account the importance of managerial, professional, and technical skills. The minister also announced that he would present a pensions proclamation amendment bill under which women officers, irrespective of marital status, and teachers paid through the Treasury, would be offered pensions like other civil servants.

On the forthcoming general elections, Mr Rakhethla said 4 million maluti had been provided for termination benefits for members of Parliament, and for other matters relating to the elections.

In conclusion, the minister expressed thanks to friendly countries' donor agencies for their development and technical aid to Lesotho. He also thanked the prime minister, his Cabinet colleagues, and the civil servants for the preparation of the 1984-85 budget, and said he hoped they would help in the implementation of the budget.

MADAGASCAR

Reportage on President Ratsiraka's France Visit

For Paris AFP reportage on the visit of Malagasy President Didier Ratsiraka's visit to France, including his meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand, see the France section of the 27 February Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

MALAWI

Government Announces Release of Chirwa's Son

*MB241649 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT
24 Feb 84*

[Text] The Office of the President and Cabinet in Lilongwe has announced that the Government of Malawi has released (Fumbani) Chirwa from protective custody. (Fumbani) was arrested in Mchinji in December 1981 when he accompanied his parents, Orton and Vera Chirwa, who had entered Malawi from [words indistinct]. Following their arrest, Orton and Vera Chirwa were tried in a court of law where they were found guilty of treason and were sentenced to death. The two subsequently appealed, but their appeal was recently dismissed (?in the Malawi) Traditional Court of Appeal.

At the time of his arrest, (Fumbani) was 6 years old.

MOZAMBIQUE

Ministers Approve RSA Treaty Principles

*MB271955 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1900 GMT 27 Feb 84*

[Text] The Council of Ministers today analyzed the report of the Mozambique delegation to the current talks with the South African Government. This was announced by AIM.

A Mozambique Government spokesman told AIM that the meeting was jointly attended by the Council of Ministers, the Political Bureau of the Frelimo Party, the Secretariat of the Central Committee, and the permanent commission of the People's Assembly. This enlarged meeting of the Council of Ministers was also attended by state secretaries and senior cadres of the Mozambique Armed Forces.

The spokesman said the meeting hailed the work accomplished by the Mozambique delegation to the talks. He added that this enlarged session of the Council of Ministers laid down guidelines for continuing the talks, and unanimously approved the principles for a draft nonaggression pact to be presented shortly to the South African Government to establish relations of peace, stability, and good neighborliness, and achieve progress in the region. The same source said the Council of Ministers praised President Samora Machel for his leadership in implementing the peace policy decided upon by the Fourth Frelimo Party Congress, held in 1983.

Cape Verde Envoy Brings Machel Pereira Message

*MB280900 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT
28 Feb 84*

[Text] President Samora Machel yesterday received the ambassador of Cape Verde to Mozambique in Maputo. The ambassador was carrying a personal message from Cape Verdian head of state Aristides Pereira to his Mozambique counterpart. A source in the Presidency of the Republic, which was cited by

NOTICIAS newspaper, said the message from President Pereira deals with matters of bilateral cooperation and the international situation, namely, the latest political, diplomatic, and military events in southern Africa.

Swazi Minister Interviewed by AIM in Maputo

*MB241510 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT
24 Feb 84*

[Text] Sipho Shongwe, Swazi minister of works and communications, has said that Swaziland is isolated due to the effects of cyclone Domina, (?which cut) the railroads linking Swaziland with the outside world. In an interview given in Maputo to AIM, the Swazi minister estimated the total cost of repairs to restore Swaziland's railroad links with the outside world to be 15 million rand. He explained that due to the destruction of the railroads, Swazi exports in coal, sugar, citrus fruits, pulp, and canned fruit as well as fuel imports, are currently paralyzed. The Swazi minister of works and communications is in Maputo for talks with Luis Maria Alcantara Santos, minister of ports, railways, and shipping. During the yesterday's talks between the two ministers, ways to deal with the common problem of railroad destruction were studied. Minister Santos said that the possibility of jointly addressing a letter to the EEC was discussed. That letter would contain a proposal for EEC participation in rebuilding the railroads.

Envoy Says SDAR To Attend Conakry Summit

*MB271817 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1700 GMT 27 Feb 84*

[Text] In Maputo, Brahim Mokhtar, SDAR ambassador to Mozambique, today reaffirmed that his country will participate in the 20th OAU summit to be held in Conakry in May of this year.

The Saharan diplomat said that the SDAR will take part in that summit regardless of the consequences. Brahim Mokhtar was speaking at a press conference on the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the proclamation of the SDAR, which is being marked today.

He said the Moroccan expansionist regime would be responsible for a possible crisis within the OAU as it has refused to accept the OAU resolution on the Western Sahara, which calls for direct talks between the Polisario and Rabat authorities. Morocco responded to the OAU resolution by increasing its military actions in the Western Sahara, Ambassador Brahim Mokhtar charged.

He went on to say that the aggressor army has suffered constant defeats and at this moment only controls 10 percent of Saharan territory. The Saharan ambassador to Maputo also denounced the fact that the Moroccan regime is waging its war of aggression with the multiform, particularly military, support of some Western powers.

AIM Cited on RSA Failures at Destabilization*MB241444 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 24 Feb 84*

[Text] Mozambique says Pretoria's talks with Angola and Mozambique show that it has failed to destabilize black-ruled southern African countries. Mozambique's official news agency, AIM, says that South Africa now wants to use economic might to achieve its goal. The statement says that from a point of view of Pretoria's previous military option, it has now been forced on to the defensive: a solution in Namibia, abandoning UNITA, and reducing support to the Mozambique National Resistance in Mozambique. The agency says Pretoria might now try to gain through the application of a regional economic option what it failed to gain through a military option.

PANA Commentary on RSA-Mozambique Negotiations*AB241132 Dakar PANA in English 1100 GMT 24 Feb 84*

[Antonio Makwala commentary: "Mozambique-South Africa Talks"]

[Text] Maputo, 24 Feb (AIM/PANA) — Right now the Pretoria regime is doing what might be expected: It is presenting the process of negotiations with Mozambique as a victory for itself, a defeat for Mozambique, and, above all, as a defeat for the African National Congress (ANC). It would be surprising were the South African Government to publicise these events in any other way.

But a careful reading of the negotiating process can lead to different conclusions. Here, I would like just to draw attention to two points.

Over the last few years, the aim of South Africa's campaign of destabilisation against the Frontline States (including the occupation of parts of Angola) was, strategically, to force Frelimo to abandon its socialist programme, to impose a compromise between MPLA and UNITA in Angola, and to put Bishop Abel Muzorewa back in government in Zimbabwe, preferably in a coalition with Joshua Nkomo.

These were South Africa's real goals, and to try and achieve them, the apartheid regime has spent thousands of millions of dollars, thus sharply worsening its own economic crisis.

But in its own propaganda, Pieter Botha's government always presented a rather more modest objective: To oblige the Frontline States to sign non-aggression pacts. Anyone who believes in this, and not in the real aims as outlined above, will naturally believe that the fact that Mozambique is going to sign a security agreement with South Africa is a victory for Pretoria. Individuals and governments believe in what their own interests determine, and in what the quality of their analysis allows them to believe.

It seems to me obvious that, from the point of view of the regime's previous military option, Pretoria has been forced firmly onto the defensive: A solution in Namibia, abandoning UNITA, and reducing support to the MNR in Mozambique signify the defeat

of this military option — assuming, that is, that these three things are actually going to happen over the coming months.

It is a complicated bit of semantic contortion (or cringing subservience to the "interpretations" floated in Pretoria) to see in the switch to an economic option a victory for the military option. South Africa did not manage to force the MPLA to the negotiating table with UNITA. It did not manage to produce the desired coup inside Frelimo. And Robert Mugabe is still the prime minister of Zimbabwe. The most that can be said is that Pretoria might now try to gain, through the application of a regional economic option, what it failed to gain through its military option.

Secondly, Pretoria has put together a well-orchestrated propaganda campaign (greatly aided by much of the Western media, and by the extremely feeble analysis of many people in Africa) to spread the idea that the ANC has just suffered an unparalleled defeat.

It is, of course, true that a certain mobility of ANC guerrillas across South Africa's borders has been an important element in the history of armed pressure on the regime. But over the last twenty years, the regime has systematically claimed that the ANC is "a movement in exile," "an external movement out there," "non-existent inside the country" etc. Unfortunately, many people have accepted this definition of the ANC — a definition made by Pretoria and not by the ANC itself. It is crucial to understand that the regime's current propaganda, the "interpretations" now being put on the talks, spring directly from this twenty-year-old definition.

Therefore, what any serious analyst must ask is: (1) is the ANC an external movement? or (2) is the ANC an internal movement with a broad social base of support, and where the external element is of merely relative importance?

The latter appears to be much more in accord with reality than the former. Thinking politicians who believe in the ANC as a strongly-based internal movement, and who have argued this case in international forums, cannot reduce their whole base of analysis to a cliché just because Mozambique is going to sign a security pact with South Africa.

There is a concealed danger in all this for Pieter Botha. Let us suppose that Pretoria signs security pacts with all the countries of the region. Let us suppose that the international community verifies that there is indeed no more crossing of South Africa's borders by ANC guerrillas. Let us suppose that the months pass and South African capital investment in the region increases. And let us suppose that the regime presents all this as a great victory for itself (which makes sense from the point of view of its own definition of the ANC). But, finally, let us also suppose that the armed actions of the ANC continue, and that its social base of support grows still further. Who, then, is Pieter Botha going to blame "out there"? And we only say "let us suppose," because it is too early to say more than this.

To sum up, there is a constant feature in Pretoria's politics over the past ten years: the counterposition of propaganda to reality in order to boost the morale of those social strata who support

apartheid. In 1973, this propaganda presented the Portuguese colonial army in Africa as an invincible force. But in 1975 Mozambique and Angola became independent. In 1979, the propaganda presented first Smith, and then the alliance of Smith and Bishop Muzorewa as extremely strong. But in 1980 Robert Mugabe became the prime minister of an independent Zimbabwe. Between 1976 and 1982, in their own propaganda, the South Africans defeated "the FAPLA (Angola's armed forces), SWAPO, the Cubans, the East Germans, and the Soviets" in Angola. But in 1983, Pretoria announced its intention of withdrawing its troops from Angola, and a possible solution in Namibia. Now the propaganda presents the ANC as being on the brink of disappearance.

How nice it would be for Mozambique, and for all of us, if the rulers in Pretoria really believed in their own propaganda

City Council Worker, Son Hurt in Truck Bombing

MB281116 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT
28 Feb 84

[Text] A bomb exploded in a pickup truck in Maputo this morning, injuring the owner and a 9-year-old son. The explosion took place when the owner of the truck, City Council office worker (Constantino Cuamba) was entering it outside his house. He is receiving treatment in the hospital. His son, (Tomas), was slightly injured by flying glass. Mr (Cuamba's) house was damaged in the explosion. Police are investigating the incident.

NAMIBIA

Conference To Ask SWAPO Founder's Release

MB241949 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1900 GMT
24 Feb 84

[Text] Namibia's Multiparty Conference is to urge the release of the imprisoned founder of SWAPO. (Herman Toivo ja Toivo) is in jail on Robben Island. Now the Multiparty Conference, which consists of six internal political parties in Namibia, says it is to negotiate for his release as well as that of other political prisoners in South Africa. The announcement came today in a statement from session chair, Dirk Mudge.

Nujoma Notes SWAPO Readiness for RSA Cease-Fire

MB281010 Harare Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT
27 Feb 84

[From the "News in Brief" program]

[Text] United Nations — The president of SWAPO of Namibia, Comrade Sam Nujoma, said on Friday in an interview at the United Nations, that the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, [PLAN] which is continuing to fight inside Namibia while observing the disengagement accord between Angola and South Africa, will continue because there is no cease-fire in Namibia. But he said that SWAPO was ready to sign a cease-fire with South Africa to end the war in Namibia.

Comrade President Sam Nujoma rejected as lies and cheap propaganda the charges by South African Foreign Minister Rieff Pik Botha that hundreds of PLAN combatants were crossing into Namibia from bases in Angola in order to threaten the so-called disengagement agreement. Ending a trip that has taken him to [words indistinct] countries, the comrade president said that PLAN operated inside Namibia itself long before Angola became independent in 1975. He said that SWAPO has made it categorically clear on paper that it will observe the so-called disengagement of forces in southern Angola.

Before leaving for Luanda on Friday from New York, Comrade Nujoma also had before that visited Italy, France, Britain, Canada, and the United States, and also made a brief trip to Moscow for the funeral of the Soviet leader Comrade Yuriy Andropov, but he said he held no substantive meeting there.

SWAPO Information Secretary Denies Troop Movement

MB281000 Harare Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT
27 Feb 84

[From the "News in Brief" program]

[Text] Lusaka — The secretary of information and publicity of SWAPO of Namibia, Comrade Hidipo Hamutenya said on Friday that the alleged SWAPO movements in southern Angola were an attempt by the racist regime of South Africa to sow discord between SWAPO and the Angolan authorities, or to put the Angolans into acting against the Namibian people. Comrade Hidipo Hamutenya, who was talking in the Zambian capital after reports that the South African racist foreign minister, Pik Botha, announced yet another concocted lie to discredit SWAPO, said that the stories of troop movements were concocted by the racists to force Angola to curtail our (?activities) and to depict SWAPO as a noncooperative movement. Botha alleged recently that 200 SWAPO fighters had crossed from Angola into Namibia and carried out new attacks and sabotage, but he failed to give answer to the question of how did SWAPO manage to mobilize that big number in such a short time after South Africa 3 weeks ago claimed that its recent incursion into Angola destroyed or disrupted SWAPO plans for this year.

Diplomatic sources in Harare say the Botha allegations are a clear sign that South Africa is only interested in stopping SWAPO activities, but not in getting a serious and lasting solution in Namibia as the racist want the world to believe.

SOUTH AFRICA

Reaction to Reports of New Namibia Plan

Settlement 'Probably' Far Off

MB280737 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT
28 Feb 84

[Text] South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha says there is no possibility of settlement in Namibia by the end of the year. Botha was reacting to reports in a number of South African newspapers which quoted sources in Washington as saying the timetable for

independence had already been drawn up. Botha has strongly rejected the reports, and says a settlement is probably still a long way off.

U.S. Recognition of Angola Involved

MB271333 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] There is a new plan to have Namibia independent before the end of the year. A Johannesburg afternoon newspaper has outlined what it says is a new timetable for independence in Namibia leaked to it by diplomatic sources. The paper says the plan involves a formal Angolan-South African cease-fire; American diplomatic recognition of Angola; and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and South African troops from Namibia. It says the whole plan hinges on the successful disengagement of South African troops from southern Angola. [Word indistinct] disengagement enters its second phase on Thursday when South African, Angolan, and American officials will begin monitoring the withdrawal of the troops.

Commentary on SWAPO Violation of Lusaka Pact

MB270748 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The incursion by some 800 SWAPO terrorists across southern Angola to South-West Africa is a flagrant violation of the peace agreement reached between South Africa and Angola. It places obligations on both countries. Angola has pledged to prevent such activity by SWAPO, and South Africa has pointed out that it will necessarily react effectively to the threat from the organization. Whatever further action may be considered will have to take cognizance of the clear evidence SWAPO has provided that it is intent on sabotaging the peace initiative between the two governments.

SWAPO is not to be trusted. Sam Nujoma has shown by his recent contradictory attitudes that he is bowing only under pressure to the demands of the cease-fire terms. His public assurance after seeing Dr Chester Crocker last week — that SWAPO would abide by the terms of the agreement — was a blatant lie, uttered as it was in the knowledge that at that moment a new terrorist offensive was underway, with some 200 members of the band already having crossed the border into South-West Africa.

SWAPO has not changed, and both the South Africans and the Angolans, who are sincere about the peace initiative, will have to accept that it is almost certainly not going to change. It owes whatever credibility it has as a pretender to power in South-West Africa to the terrorist campaign against the people of the territory. That campaign could never have been sustained for so long, had it not been for the military assistance of the Soviet Union, and Cuban troops in Angola. And the last thing the Soviet Union wants is a peaceful settlement in which South-West Africans would choose their own government and constitution, free from

coercion. Moreover, SWAPO itself has no inclination for the democratic test it would have to face up to in such a settlement.

Nujoma has stated openly that his movement is not fighting for a democratic independence, but for power. We deserve it, he has said. In those circumstances, a peace agreement between South Africa and Angola must obviously contain appropriate safeguards. The Angolan Government will have to demonstrate its ability to compel SWAPO to abide by the agreement, or acknowledge the need for more comprehensive measures. The commission that has been appointed for monitoring observance must be scrupulous in executing its duties. Confirmation by it of SWAPO violations would have to be dealt with promptly, whether by Angolan action, South African defensive measures, or, perhaps, more effective joint enforcement machinery.

Whatever the response, it will have to address the fact that SWAPO has become a brigand movement, defying national and international law, and the governmental authority even of its host country. That is essential if the peace initiative is to be saved.

Radio Stresses Role of Joint Angolan Commission

MB280830 Johannesburg International Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Station commentary: "The Joint Monitoring Commission"]

[Text] It is becoming increasingly apparent that the joint monitoring commission created during negotiations in Lusaka between representatives of the Governments of Angola, South Africa, and the United States, is the main machinery that must be employed if the present peace initiative is to succeed. The commission, which was referred to by the South African foreign minister, Mr R.F. Botha, as the machinery for peace, was formed for the specific purpose of examining all aspects of the implementation of the agreements reached in Lusaka, and it is the main task of the commission to ensure that the new initiatives remain on course.

The commission enables the various parties to get together and discuss any problem areas that may arise and find solutions. But perhaps the main benefit of the commission is that it enables both sides to gauge the sincerity factor involved. It is essential that a spirit of mutual trust and confidence should be developed and maintained between South Africa and Angola, if this extremely delicate exercise is to succeed. And the best way of doing this is for representatives of the two countries to meet face to face, and by word and deed, indicate their willingness to exercise restraint in the face of SWAPO provocations.

An appeal to this effect was made last week by President Kaunda of Zambia. He said that although he had no reason to doubt South Africa's claim that several hundred SWAPO insurgents had entered South-West Africa, he believed Angola was sincere in wanting this initiative to work, and he appealed to South Africa to show the necessary restraint.

In effect, this is precisely what South Africa has done, and it is heartening to note that the South African appeal for an urgent meeting of the joint monitoring commission led to an immediate

convening of the commission. Meanwhile, the actions of SWAPO are to be severely deplored. Mr Sam Nujoma is jeopardizing the peace initiative which Angola and South Africa both regard to be in their own self interest. SWAPO is breaking faith with Angola, a country which through the years has supported it despite the considerable hardship that has resulted for the Angolan people.

Today, Angola is exercising its sovereignty in southern Angola. It has ordered both SWAPO and Cuban forces to keep clear of the operational area while South Africa disengages her troops and withdraws in preparation for a cease-fire. By refusing to heed these orders from Angola, SWAPO is insulting its host country and is biting a hand that has fed it for many years. Hopefully, the pressure on SWAPO will mount, so that it will soon be compelled to abandon its own selfish interests, and serve the interests of southern Africa as a whole.

Open Business District Recommendations Praised

*MB271304 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 27 Feb 84*

[Text] The recommendations of the Strydom Committee on the Group Areas Act and related laws, that central business districts in major centers be opened to all race groups, have been welcomed by city councils, the Association of Chambers of Commerce [ASSOCOM], and other trade organizations. This became clear from a survey conducted by the South African Broadcasting Corporation's news staff. ASSOCOM's spokesman on manpower, Mr (Vincent Brett), says the opening up of central business districts to traders of all races has been ASSOCOM policy for many years. Mr (Brett) said in Johannesburg that the association had urged the government every year to implement such changes. However, ASSOCOM had reservations about immediately opening up black trading areas as the black entrepreneur needed time to develop his skills. He said ASSOCOM needed to know precisely what the proposed legislation would involve before making further comment.

The Central Business District Association of Johannesburg has also welcomed the recommendations that central business districts should become open trading areas. The chairman of the association, Mr (Nigel Mandy), said he did not expect any immediate big changes. Many businesses had black managers, some black businesses used whites as fronts, while others had been ignoring restrictions entirely. He said the only immediate difference could be mixed attendance at cinemas.

The president of the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce, Mr (Sam Motijunane), said that he welcomed the recommendations concerning open central business districts, but felt that resentment would be caused by giving individual cities and towns the option of keeping the districts closed to other races. For 20 years, his organization had been striving to bring about open business districts.

The chairman of the Durban Management Committee, Mr (Neil McClennan), says the Strydom Committee's recommendations on open business districts is along the same lines of Durban City

Council thinking. The council addressed the government on the issue some time ago. He said the step would encourage new development in the central business district of Durban and save the city from death.

The committee's recommendation has also been welcomed by the Durban Chamber of Commerce. The chamber's president, Mr (Sandy Morrison), has described it as an evolutionary move that is essential in the light of the new tricameral parliamentary system. The chairman of the Bloemfontein Sakekamer, [afrikaans Chamber of Commerce] Mr (Berry Van Niekerk), has described the issue as most momentous, and says he will comment after discussing the recommendations with his Executive Committee tomorrow.

The chairman of the Cape Town City Council Executive Committee, Mr (John Muir), also welcomed the recommendations, saying that it had always been the council's policy that businessmen should be allowed to trade where they wished. In Pretoria, the recommendations have been welcomed by both the chamber of commerce and the Sakekamer. The chairman of the Pretoria Management Committee, Dr (Gerhard Dawids), said that he first wishes to study the recommendations before commenting.

The City Councils of East London and Pietermaritzburg, and the King William's Town Council have also welcomed the recommendations.

Residents Near Ladysmith To Oppose Resettlement

*MB270726 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT
27 Feb 84*

[Text] Residents of eight African areas near Ladysmith have vowed to oppose their forced resettlement in terms of apartheid legislation. Carmel Rickard reports:

[Rickard] Representatives were chosen this weekend by the 100,000 people who face removal from their homes in the Ladysmith District. Two people each from (Matiwane's Kop), (Ndoiyane), (Vielkockspruit), (Mbulwane), (Walderskraal), and (Driefontein) were chosen, and at the first meeting of the new committee, representatives of (Jenonaskop) and (Lusitania) will also attend. The new committee is to make representations on behalf of the threatened people to the KwaZulu and central governments, asking that they should not be moved. They are also to assist the communities which are threatened. The 100,000 residents are largely descendants of people who settled the area in the 1870's. They have to go because they constitute what the government calls a black spot. It is believed to be the first time that threatened areas have come together to fight their removal.

Thousands of Mgwali Residents Oppose Removal

*MB271356 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT
27 Feb 84*

[Text] Four thousand residents of an Eastern Cape village are opposed to removal to Ciskei. Progressive Federal Party Member of Parliament for Albany (Errol Moorcroft) said the Mgwali Residents Association [MRA] has signed and committed support

of 4,000 heads of households against the move. (Moorcroft) met representatives of the MRA at the weekend while on a visit to Mgwali. His visit followed Ciskei police action in the village 2 weeks ago. (Moorcroft) says he has been assured by Minister of Law and Order Louis le Grange that Ciskei police in fact have no right to operate on South African territory. South Africa has planned to remove the Mgwali people to (Frankfort), which is in Ciskei.

SWAZILAND

Finance Minister Presents Budget to Parliament

MB241718 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] The minister for finance, Dr Sishayi Nxumalo, today presented his budget to Parliament, with the Ministry of Education taking the lion's share of 43.243 million emalangeni, followed by Works and Communication with 32.913 million emalangeni. The Ministry of Health got 17.967 million emalangeni, Agriculture and Cooperatives 14.209 million emalangeni, and the new Ministry of Defense and Youth 11.663 emalangeni. In all, the minister said the estimate of the recurrent spending by departments amounts to 127.2 million emalangeni. He said this is a substantial increase of 21 percent over the provisions sought for departments in 1983-84. He said the 1984-85 figure also includes an estimate of 3 million emalangeni to cover recurrent costs of the Central Transport Organization deficit and provision for back payment of contributions to teachers' pension scheme of 1.44 million emalangeni, neither of which were included in the 1983-84 estimates.

Dr Nxumalo further stated that provision has been made for a binary salary increase for the public service amounting to 7.4 million emalangeni. But no final decision has yet been made on the award of a salary increase to the public service, and a final decision on these will be taken in the light of the resources available after looking at the needs for reconstruction.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Asks RSA For Restraint on SWAPO Incursions

MB241629 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia has called for the South African authorities to be patient in the light of the SWAPO incursions into South-West Africa/Namibia after the Lusaka meeting between the South African and Angolan authorities. In an interview with Radio RSA, he said one should bear in mind the stand taken by the Angolan authorities in Lusaka. They were absolutely determined that what had been agreed in Lusaka was achieved.

President Kaunda asked the South African authorities to give the Angolans all the information they had available about the movement of a SWAPO [word indistinct]. He said, and these are his words: All of us working together can, through persuasion and other measures that are nonconfrontational, bring this under

control. He said the parties should not fail by resorting to attack and counterattack. Asked why he had brought the two sides together, President Kaunda said it was because he regarded the South African withdrawal from southern Angola as a very positive step. He would like to pursue the current initiative to its logical conclusion.

In the course of the interview, he said he regarded the whites in South Africa as Africans belonging to this continent and to no other. He would like to welcome South Africans into the Southern African Development Coordination Conference and the OAU, but there was a self-imposed stumbling block, apartheid.

Government Reduces Financial Obligation to PANA

AB271029 Paris AFP in English 0929 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Lusaka, Feb. 27 (AFP) — The Inter-Governmental Council of the PAN AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY (PANA) has granted a request from Zambia to cut its contribution by almost 50 per cent.

Zambia's minister of information and broadcasting services, Cosmas Chibanda, said on return over the weekend from a conference in Dakar, that the request was granted because of Zambia's economic problems. The minister said Zambia will now pay about 34,000 dollars instead of the previous assessment of 75,000 dollars.

Out of 28 member states, only 13 have paid their contributions to the news agency, according to Mr Chibanda.

ZIMBABWE

Government, FRG Sign Veterinary Services Accord

MB271234 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Zimbabwe and the FRG have signed a financial agreement under which the FRG will assist Zimbabwe's rural veterinary services, and the German Development Bank will acquire a 6 percent share in the Zimbabwe Development Bank. The agreement is worth 5.5 million dollars. It was signed by the minister of finance, economic planning, and development, Comrade Bernard Chidzero, and the FRG charge d'affaires in Zimbabwe, Mr (Sort von Norr), who was accompanied by a member of the German Development Bank.

The agreement is in two parts: 300,000 dollars for the construction of an infrastructure for animal management in the communal areas, and a commodity aid of 4 million dollars. The second part involves 1.2 million dollars which the German bank will use to buy shares in the Zimbabwe Development Bank.

Comrade Chidzero thanked the FRG for the favorable terms of the agreement, saying it was most welcome in view of the problems being experienced in servicing external debts.

New High Commissioner Leaves for United Kingdom

*MB270735 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT
27 Feb 84*

[Text] Zimbabwe's newly appointed high commissioner to Britain and Ireland, Comrade Herbert Murerwa, left Harare for London yesterday. Comrade Murerwa, a former secretary for the then Ministry of Labor and Social Services, replaces Zimbabwe's first high commissioner to London, Comrade Robert Zvinoira, who was recalled last May.

Radio Truth Blames Army for Matabeleland Deaths

*MB270846 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe
0430 GMT 27 Feb 84*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Even we are not up to date with the murders and other atrocities now being committed in southern Matabeleland by the

Zimbabwe National Army [ZNA], but we do have one fact. White farmers left in the region, and there are not many, are being forced almost at gunpoint to give soldiers all the liquor in their houses. Semi-drunken soldiers of the ZNA seem to have forgotten what they are in southern Matabeleland to achieve, and spend their days going from farm to farm demanding beer. Such is the level of menaces aimed at the farmers, that they are wisely giving up their liquor without argument. We say wisely, because the inference is, if they don't, their lives won't be worth a candle.

When you consider that the Zimbabwe police have bowed from investigating any charges against the Army, you could easily get killed and no one could care. We understand, although we have seen no evidence yet, that something in the region of 100 people have been murdered in southern Matabeleland since the curfew came into force. Of these 100 people, only two can definitely be laid at the door of the dissidents, all the rest are being killed by their protectors, the ZNA. Finally, let it be known that these dead people were villagers, not armed soldiers or dissidents, but old men, women, and the children.